



**Micro Pro Musica Press
San Francisco, California**

**William Severson Arrangements
MPMP02008**

Please Don't Ask Me

Paraphrase from Ruth

by

William Severson (1941 –)

for

**Mixed Chorus (SATB)
Parts**

\$20.00 US

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San Francisco, California**

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Notes

This poem was given to me by my ex-lover. It is a paraphrase of the famous passage from the bible in the book of Ruth in the Old Testament. And like the musician and composer that I was, I was moved to set it to music. This was in 1979, and I had done no composing for some twenty years, so this is the first composition done in a more mature style. As for my ex-lover I find it ironic that with the first line of the poem, "Please Don't Ask Me to Leave You," soon afterward I found the love of my life with whom I have been with some twenty-five years, and I am still in love.

When I look at this composition, and I have been living with this composition for some 25 years, the only word that I have to describe it is beauty. To me this is the most beautiful composition that I have ever written. The style is quite traditional though not quite common practice harmony as there are some parallel fifths and octaves (see measures 5 and 6,) they are an integral part of the beauty and charm of this composition. Well, afterall, I am a modern composer!

The composition originally is a song for baritone, viola and piano. This SATB arrangement is from the '90s when I had an opportunity to compose for a mixed chorus. This was performed in an Society of Gay and Lesbian Composers' concert in San Francisco, California.

William Severson, October 16, 2007

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Clarinet in Bb

Please, Don't Ask Me to Leave You

(Paraphrase from Ruth)

Revised July 30, 2009

Words: Andrew Blanchar
Music: William Severson

Moderato ♩ = 90

Clarinet in Bb

1 *mp*

8 *mf* *p*

15 *p* *mp*

21 *p*

25 *mf*

30 *f* *mp* **Meno Mosso** ♩ = 60

35 *ritard* *accelerando* **A Tempo**

40

44

48 *f* *p*

52

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Clarinet in A

Please, Don't Ask Me to Leave You

(Paraphrase from Ruth)

Revised July 30, 2009

Words: Andrew Blanchar

Music: William Severson

Moderato ♩ = 90

Clarinet in A

1 *mp*

8 *mf* *p*

16 *p* *mp* *p*

22

27 *mf* *f* ritard accelerando

33 *mp* **Meno Mosso** ♩ = 60

37 **A Tempo**

43

48 *f* *p*

53

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Viola

Please, Don't Ask Me to Leave You

(Paraphrase from Ruth)

Revised July 30, 2009

Words: Andrew Blanchar
Music: William Severson

Clarinet
in Bb

Moderato $\text{♩} = 90$

1 *mp*

8 *mf* *p*

15 *p* *mp*

21 *p*

25 *mf*

30 *f* *mp* **Meno Mosso** $\text{♩} = 60$

35 *ritard* *accelerando* **A Tempo**

40

44

48 *f* *p*

52