



**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)  
Score**

**\$20.00 US**

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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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# Please, Don't Ask Me to Leave You

(Paraphrase from Ruth)

Words: Andrew Blanchar  
Music: William Severson

Revised July 30, 2009

Moderato  $\text{♩} = 90$

S.A.

T.B.

Clarinet in A

Moderato  $\text{♩} = 90$

*mp*

Piano

Moderato  $\text{♩} = 90$

*mp*

5 *mp*

Please, don't ask me Please to leave you;

5 *mp*

Please, don't ask me Please to leave you;

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## Please Don't Ask Me to Leave You

9

Nev - er say I must go.

Nev - er say I must go.

13

*f* I long *p* *unis.* to be with you,

*f* I long *p* *unis.* to be with you,

*mf* *p*

## Please Don't Ask Me to Leave You

17

to - night and ev - er - more.

to - night and ev - er - more.

*p* ————— *mp*

This system contains the first vocal and piano accompaniment for the phrase "to - night and ev - er - more." It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment with dynamic markings *p* and *mp*. The time signature changes from 5/4 to 4/4.

21 *mp*

I am one of your chil - dren;

*mp*

21 I am one of your chil - dren;

*p*

*mp*

This system contains the second vocal and piano accompaniment for the phrase "I am one of your chil - dren;". It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment with dynamic markings *mp* and *p*. The time signature is 4/4.

Please Don't Ask Me to Leave You

25

You are my on - ly lord.

You are my on - ly lord.

29 *unis.*

*mf* I know when I die! *f* ritard

*mf* I know when I die! *f* ritard

*mf* ritard

## Please Don't Ask Me to Leave You

33 *mp* **Meno Mosso** ♩ = 60

I am bur - ied in the word. \_\_\_\_\_ *accelerando*

33 **Meno Mosso** ♩ = 60 *mp* *accelerando*

33 **Meno Mosso** ♩ = 60 *mp* *accelerando*

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 33-36. The vocal line (top staff) has lyrics 'I am buried in the word.' with a long note on 'word.' that spans across the measure. The piano accompaniment (middle and bottom staves) features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more complex bass line in the left hand. The guitar part (bottom staff) plays a similar eighth-note pattern. The tempo is marked 'Meno Mosso' at 60 bpm. Dynamics include 'mp' and 'accelerando'.

37 **A Tempo**

37 **A Tempo**

37 **A Tempo**

37 **A Tempo**

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 37-40. The vocal line (top staff) has a long note on 'word.' that spans across the measure. The piano accompaniment (middle and bottom staves) features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more complex bass line in the left hand. The guitar part (bottom staff) plays a similar eighth-note pattern. The tempo is marked 'A Tempo'.

## Please Don't Ask Me to Leave You

41

I will fol - low you through ev - ery day;

I will fol - low you through ev - ery day;

41

41

41

41

45

Where you rest I will glad - ly lay.

Where you rest I will glad - ly lay.

45

45

45

## Please Don't Ask Me to Leave You

49 *f* *p*

I will learn from you the love I need;

I will learn from you the love I need;

49 *f* *p*

53

you are ev-ery - thing to me.

you are ev-ery - thing to me.

53

53 *rit.*