



**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 two systems of music. The first system is a vocal line with lyrics "to - night and ev - er - more." in a 5/4 time signature, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The second system is a piano accompaniment for the same vocal line, starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic and transitioning to mezzo-piano (*mp*) by the end of the system. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand.

21 *mp*

I am one of your chil - dren;

mp

21 I am one of your chil - dren;

p

21 *mp*

This system contains the second two systems of music. The third system is a vocal line with lyrics "I am one of your chil - dren;" in a 4/4 time signature, with a key signature of two sharps. It begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The fourth system is a piano accompaniment for the same vocal line, starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand.

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

29 *mf* ritard

29 *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*

37 **A Tempo**

37 **A Tempo**

37 **A Tempo**

37 **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.*