

**LAMENT OF ISIS
ON THE DEATH OF OSIRIS**

for solo soprano

ELISABETH LUTYENS

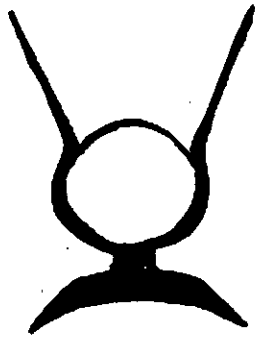
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University of York Music Press

ISMN M 57020 634 6

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LAMENT OF ISIS
ON THE DEATH OF OSIRIS

for

SOLO SOPRANO

from

'ISIS AND OSIRIS'

Lyric drama

for 8 voices and small orchestra

Libretto and music

by

ELISABETH LUTYENS

LAMENT OF ISIS ON THE DEATH OF OSIRIS

"Ah! -----, -----, -----, -----,
Nile has been overcome by Sea; The Etesian winds are stilled,
no rain does fall.
Osiris, Lord of the Rivers, now is dead.
The murderous heat of Seth does scorch my land.
The nights grow dark; the Moon has died.
Mourn, O mourn, the loss of my sweet Nile;
Mourn, O mourn, the death of Northern winds;
Mourn, O mourn, the lengthening of the night;
And mourn, above all else, this sad Earth's denudation:
the grass no longer green,
the withering of all the trees,
the flowers that flower no more,
the shrubs that shed their leaves.
Then, mourn, O mourn, the dying of the Nile.
Osiris, Lord and King, I weep for you."

*
* *

NOTE:

The libretto of 'Isis and Osiris' is based on the 'story' of the Osiris myth as told by Plutarch in Moralia V.

Words and sentences have been adopted and paraphrased from the Egyptian 'Book of the Dead' where they are applicable to the characters or situation. (As in 'The Lament').

Some other names, and attributes, of the god-characters are:-

Osiris - Nile, Moon, Rivers, God of Corn and Wine, fertilising water, King of Egypt.

Isis - Earth, Goddess of Vegetation, moisture, fertility, sister and wife of Osiris.

Seth - Typhon, Sea Salt, Desert, all that is evil and destructive, brother and murderer of Osiris.

The Etesian winds are the gentle Northern winds that bring rain.

The lament is sung, unaccompanied, by Isis when left alone, after being told of the murder of Osiris by his brother, Seth.

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* *

for Jane Manning

LAMENT OF ISIS ON THE DEATH OF OSIRIS

Duration: 4 min. ca.

ELISABETH LUTYENS

Op. 74 1969

pppp *sotto voce* Ah, Ah, Ah,

pp *5:4* *p* *pppp* Nile has been over come by

pp *3* *ppp* *5:4* *pp* Sea. The E... te... sian... wi... nds are stilled, no

pp *3* *pp* *5:4* *pp* rai... (air) does fall. O... siri... is, Lord of the

pp *5:4* *mf* *fp* Ri... vers now... is dea... d. The murder...ous heat of

p *3* *mf* *ppp* *ppp* Se...th does scor... ch my la... nd. The

ppp *senza cresc.* nights grow dar...k, the Moo... n

ppp *3* *pp* *3* *pp* has die...d. Mourn, - O mourn, the loss of my sweet

pp *3* *pp* *3* *mf* Ni...le; Mourn, O mourn, the death of Northern

winds Mourn, O mourn, the lengthening of the
 night. and mourn above all else this
 sad... (a) ... (a) ... and Ear... this de... nuda... tion:
 the grass no long... er green; the withering of
 all - the tree... s; the flowers that flower no more;
 the shrubs that shed their lea... ves. Then
 mourn, O mour... n, the dy... ing of the Ni... le
 O... Sir... is, Lord and Kin... g, I wee (ee) (ee) p for
 you.

March 29th 1969