

# Songs of the Accused

*for Soprano and Mandolin*

Benjamin R. Fuhrman

Circa Eight Minutes Thirty Seconds.



**Cup Poem 1**

Shaikh Abdurraheem Muslim Dost

**Cup Poem 2**

Shaikh Abdurraheem Muslim Dost

**I am Sorry, My Brother**

Othman Abdurraheem Mohammad

**Even if the Pain**

Siddiq Turkestani

**They Fight for Peace**

Shaker Abdurraheem Aamer

**Fragment 1**

Shaikh Abdurraheem Muslim Dost

**Fragment 2**

Shaikh Abdurraheem Muslim Dost

All of the poems used in these songs were created while their authors were illegally detained by the US government in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. The poems occur here as translated by Marc Falkoff in his book *Poems from Guantánamo: The Detainees Speak*.

-Benjamin R. Fuhrman

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# Cup Poem 1

Score

Benjamin R. Fuhrman  
Shaikh Abdurraheem Muslim Dost

Bien Rubato ♩ = 50

*G. P.*

Soprano

Mandolin

S

What kind of \_\_\_\_\_ place is \_\_\_\_\_ this, where \_\_\_\_\_ there are no flow - ers

Mdn.

S

and the air is fil<sup>3</sup> led \_\_\_\_\_ with a mis-er-able smell?

Mdn.

# Cup Poem 2

Score

Benajmin R. Fuhrman  
Shaikh Abdurraheem Muslim Dost

Machine-like, Strictly in Tempo ♩ = 85

Soprano

Mandolin

*Scordatura*

*Sul II/III al fine.*

*ff*

*simile al fine*

5

S

Hand - cuffs be - fit brave young men, ban - gles are for spin - sters or

Mdn.

*mf*

10

S

pre - tty young la - dies. Hand - cuffs be - fit brave young men.

Mdn.

*ff*

*mf*

*ff*

*rit.*

# I am Sorry, My Brother

Score

Benjamin R. Fuhrman

Othman Abdulraheem Mohammad

**Plaintive**  $\text{♩} = 42$

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*Scordatura* *Distant, as if underwater* *simile al fine*

*p*

**Soprano**

**Mandolin**

I am so - rry my bro ther. The shack - les bind my hands and i - ron is circ ling

**S**

**Mdn.**

7 the placewhere I sleep. I am so - rry my bro - ther, that I can - not help the el - der - ly or the wi - dow

**S**

**Mdn.**

13 or the li - ttle child. Do not weigh the death of a man as a sign of de - feat. The on - ly shame is in be -

3 3

I am Sorry, My Brother

19 *ff* *mf* *mp*

S

tray - ing your i - deals and fail - ing to stand by your be - liefs.

Mdn.



# Even if the Pain

Benjamin R. Fuhrman  
Siddiq Turkestani

Score

**Lento maestoso e misterioso** ♩ = 62  
*p*

Soprano

Ev-en if the pain of the wound in-crea-ses, there must be a re-me dy to treat it.

Mandolin

*p*  
Strum with fingertips.

8

S

Even if the days in pri - son endure, there must be a day when we will get out.

Mdn.

8

# They Fight for Peace

Score

Benjamin R. Fuhrman  
Shaker Abdurraheem Aamer

Vivace furioso ♩ = 184

*ff*

Soprano

Mandolin

*Scordatura*

*f*

A bottle-neck slide and a metal pick are used for this movement.

*Sprechstimme*  
*mp*

S

Mdn.

*fp*

*fp*

*fp*

S

Mdn.

*fp*

*fp*

*f*

They Fight for Peace

15 *mp*

S

Is it just talk? Why do they argue? Is it so simple to kill? Is this their plan?

Mdn.

15

*fp fp fp f*

20 *Sing ff*

S

Yes, of course! They talk, they argue, they kill. They fight for peace.

Mdn.

20

*fff sfz*

*Sprechstimme mf*

# Fragment 1

Score

Benjamin R. Fuhrman

Shaikh Abdurraheem Muslim Dost

Lento, triste e lamentoso  $\text{♩} = 56$

Soprano

Mandolin

*Scordatura*

Eid \_\_\_\_\_ has come, \_\_\_\_\_ but my

*p*  
A bottle-neck slide and a metal pick  
are used for this movement.

S

Mdn.

fa - ther has not. \_\_\_\_\_ He is not come \_\_\_\_\_ from Cu ba. I \_\_\_\_\_ am ea - ting the \_\_\_\_\_

S

Mdn.

bread of Eid with my tears. \_\_\_\_\_ I have no-thing. \_\_\_\_\_ Why \_\_\_\_\_ am I

Fragment 1

S

24

de \_\_\_\_\_prived of the love \_\_\_\_\_ of my fa ther? \_\_\_\_\_ Why am I so o-ppressed? 3 I have no thing. \_\_\_\_\_

Mdn.

24

*mf* *mp* *mp* *pp*

# Fragment 2

Score

Benjamin R. Fuhrman  
Shaikh Abdurraheem Muslim Dost

Delicate, but intense. ♩ = 94  
*Sprechstimme* **f**

Soprano

Just as the heart beats in the dark-ness of the bo-dy, so I,

Mandolin

*simile al fine*  
**mf**

S

de-spite-this cage, con tin-ue to beat with life. Those who have no cou-rage or ho - nor

Mdn.

**ff** *Sing* **mf**

S

con - si-der them - selves free, but they are slaves. I am fly - ing on wings of

Mdn.

**f** *Sprechstimme*

Fragment 2

S

23

*Sing mp*

*mf*

*p*

3

3

thought, and so, ev - en in this cage, I know \_\_\_ a great - er free - dom.

Mdn.

23