

DONA NOBIS PACEM

GRANT US PEACE

Traditional
Arr. Neil Ginsberg

Gently ♩ = 88

The musical score is arranged in three systems. The first system (measures 1-5) features a piano accompaniment in 3/4 time with a tempo of 88. The piano part consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand and a melody in the right hand. The second system (measures 6-11) includes a vocal line starting at measure 6 with the lyrics "Do - na no - bis pa - cem,". The piano accompaniment continues. The third system (measures 12-16) continues the vocal line with the lyrics "pa - cem, do - na - no - bis pa - cem." and the piano accompaniment.

From the Composer

When I was conducting middle school choir, I discovered that adding an accompaniment to canons not only provided the young singers the support they needed to sing independently with confidence but also gave the pieces form and shape. No longer just simple canons, the pieces became concert-worthy musical events.

To help make this arrangement of “Dona Nobis Pacem” easier for young voices to learn and sing, it is structured as a catch rather than a round. In a catch, each voice part repeats only one phrase of the canon. The parts are then layered creating an effect that is similar in sound to a round, but each voice is required to learn and sing only eight measures. The alto part ranges from middle C to D; the sopranos from F to D; and the baritones from low C to middle C.

—Neil Ginsberg

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