

Ulrik Remy

Green River Cantata

Staff

Soloists

Narrator
Evangelist
Robert Rule

Bariton
Bariton
Bass
Soprano
Alto 1
Alto 2
Tenor 1
Tenor 2
Bass
Voices from the choir
Male voice

Choir

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

Orchestra

2 Flutes
4 Violin 1
4 Violin 2
3 Viola
3 Violoncello
2 Contrabass
Harpichord

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Textbook

Introduction

Choir

Lord, give us strength
to carry this red hot iron
of which they say
only the righteous
can hold it
in their bare hands
for seven steps or more
Lord, give us strength
to bare our souls
and take this red hot iron
and carry it all the way
Lord, give us strength
Amen

Step One

Narrator In King County in the State of Washington
between the years on nineteen eighty two
and nineteen ninety eight
at least forty eight young women
almost children
mysteriously disappeared
they were found dead and buried
along the Green River
in two thousand three
their killer was brought to trial

Choir Year after year after year
we've been waiting
for our children
to come home
hanging on to our hope (against hope)
on the brink of despair
year after year after year
we've been waiting
we've been praying
we've been asking
we've been searching
we've been crying
we've been waiting, waiting, waiting

Voices

Wendy - Gisele - Debra - Marcia - Cynthia - Opal -
Terry - Mary - Debra - Linda - Denise - Shawnda -
Shirley - Coleen - Alma - Delores - Gail - Andrea -
Sandra - Kimi-Kai - Marie -

Male Voice (spoken)

In most cases, when I murdered these women, I did not know their names. Most of the time, I killed them the first time I met them, and I do not have a good memory for their faces. I killed so many women, I have a hard time keeping them straight. Most of the time I took the womens' jewelry and their clothes to get rid of any evidence and make them harder to identify. I placed most of the bodies in groups which I call "clusters". I did this because I wanted to keep track of all the women I killed. I liked to drive by the clusters around the county and think about the women I placed there.

Step Two Choir He's a murderer, murderer
a killer in cold blood, a murderer
let's put him away! Death! Death!
He brought death upon us
our answer be: Death! Death!

Narrator The killer was spared the death penalty
in exchange for disclosing
the burial sites of his victims
thus allowing the families
to find some closure

Choir Day after day after day
we've been listening in the courtroom
hearing how they died
we could not bear to hear
yet we could not bear not to hear
day after day after day
we've been listening
we've been sobbing
we've been choking
we've been breaking down in tears –

Voices

Male Voice (spoken)

Carol - Martina - Cheryl - Yvonne - Carrie - Tracy -
Maureen - Mary - Pammy - Delise - Constance - Kelly -
Tina - April - Debbie - Kimberley - Lisa - Mary -
Cindy - Patricia - Roberta - Marta - Patricia -

The plan was, I wanted to kill as many women I thought were prostitutes as I possibly could. I picked prostitutes as my victims because I hate most prostitutes and I did not want to pay them for sex. I also picked prostitutes as victims because they were easy to pick up without being noticed. I knew they would not be reported missing right away and might never be reported missing. I picked prostitutes because I thought I could kill as many of them as I wanted without getting caught.

Choir He's a murderer, murderer
a killer in cold blood, a murderer
let's put him away! Death! Death!
He brought death upon us
our answer be: Death! Death!

Step Three

Soloists
Alto 1 Where did my baby sister go?
Bass 1 She always, always went her own ways, always
Tenor As long as she was with us, we took her for granted
Alto 1 Where did my baby sister go?
Bass 2 I should have watched out for her
Alto 2 She just had to have it her way
Tenor I know I could have been a better father
Alto 1 When we started worrying
All Soloists it was too late to watch out, too late to worry

Choir
Look down at these tears, oh Lord
these tears of agony and pain
look down and have mercy, Lord
look down and have mercy, Lord

Soloists
Bass 1 Where did my youngest daughter go?
Alto 1 She always wanted to go to college
Tenor We talked about drugs a few times
Alto 2 She could be really nice and sweet
Bass 2 Somehow we could not communicate
Tenor I never should have let her go
Alto 2 And I told her, I told her a thousand times
Bass 1 I feel like I've left her alone
Tenor So many mistakes that just can't be undone
All Soloists and we know we are all in need of forgiveness

Choir
Look down at these tears, oh Lord
these tears of agony and pain
look down and have mercy, Lord
look down and have mercy, Lord

Step Four

Evangelist Thus spoke our Lord Jesus Christ:
Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened
And I will give you rest

Choir Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi
Miserere nobis
Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi
Miserere nobis
Agnus Dei
Lamb of God
Qui tollis
Who takest away
Peccata mundi
The sins of the world
Dona nobis pacem
Grant us, grant us
Peace

Step Five

Solo	Soprano	Peace, I want peace Oh I want to have peace in my life
Choir		There is no peace without closure
Solo	Soprano	Peace, I want peace I want closure and peace in my life
	Alto	I want him dead who did this
Choir		He's a murderer, murderer a killer in cold blood, a murderer
Solo	Alto	may he burn in hell!
Choir		There is no closure without reconciliation
Solo	Tenor Alto 2 Soprano Tenor 2 Bass Alto 2 Tenor 2 Soprano	I just want to know where she is me too me too bury her lay her to rest get some closure finally grieve oh I wish I was able to cry
Choir		There is no peace without closure There is no closure without reconciliation There's no redemption without forgiveness Forgiveness

Step Six

Soloists	Forgiveness? Forgiveness? How can we ever forgive? How can we ever forgive? He's a murderer, murderer We cut him a deal so he lives It's a deal with a murderer, murderer How can we ever, ever forgive?
Evangelist (2. Corinthians 5:18)	All this is from God who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation
Choir	Forgiveness, forgiveness
Evangelist	That God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ Not counting men's sins against them And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation
Choir	Forgiveness, forgiveness
Evangelist	We are therefore Christ's ambassadors As though God were making his appeal through us We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God Be reconciled to God
Soloists	God made Him who had no sin To be sin for us So that in Him we might become The righteousness of God
Choir	The righteousness of God The righteousness of God

Step Seven

Narrator On December sixteen of two thousand and three
the relatives of the victims were gathered in the courtroom
to speak to the killer for a final time
Among them was a father whose daughter had been slain
at the age of sixteen
He stepped forward and said:

Robert Rule There are people here that hate you
I'm not one of them
I forgive you for what you've done
You've made it difficult to live up to what I believe
and that is what God says to do
and that's to forgive
and He does not say to forgive just certain people
He says to forgive all
So you are forgiven, Sir

Choir So you are forgiven, Sir

Narrator It was the first time that we saw tears in the eyes of the murderer

Conclusion

Choir

This red hot iron that we took
in our naked hand
it cannot burn us any more
because we understand:

the only way to carry on
this precious life to live
that is to free our hearts from hate
and earnestly forgive

this is the righteousness of God
it shines through grief and tears
to reconcile us to our lives
and overcome our fears

within the grace of God we will
not stumble and not fall
we thank you, Lord, for giving us
the greatest gift of all

Choir and community

Our father which are in heaven
Hallowed be Thy name
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done
In earth, as it is in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
Forever and ever.
Amen

Finis