

## Prayer of the Children

By Kurt Bestor, arr. By Andrea Klouse

Can you hear the prayer of the children?  
On bended knee, in the shadow of an unknown room  
Empty eyes with no more tears to cry  
Turning heavenward toward the light

Crying Jesus, help me  
To see the morning light-of one more day  
But if I should die before I wake,  
I pray my soul to take

Can you feel the hearts of the children?  
Aching for home, for something of their very own  
Reaching hands, with nothing to hold on to,  
But hope for a better day a better day

Crying Jesus, help me  
To feel the love again in my own land  
But if unknown roads lead away from home,  
Give me loving arms, away from harm

Can you hear the voice of the children?  
Softly pleading for silence in a shattered world?  
Angry guns preach a gospel full of hate,  
Blood of the innocent on their hands

Crying Jesus, help me  
To feel the sun again upon my face,  
For when darkness clears I know you're near,  
Bringing peace again

Dali cujete sve dječje molitive?  
(*Croatian translation:*  
'Can you hear all the children's prayers?')  
Can you hear the prayer of the children?

Many thanks to Ms. Peggy Kim Burrough and the Aylen JH Choralliers for helping give this work its due attention.  
For the 1996 Georgia All-State Junior High Mixed Chorus.

# PRAYER OF THE CHILDREN

TTBB, a cappella

Words and Music  
by KURT BESTOR  
Arranged by  
ANDREA S. KLOUSE

Performance time: 5:15

Freely, with much feeling ♩ = ca. 52

\* unis. mp

Can you hear the pray'r of the chil - dren on bend - ed

unis. mp

knee, in the shad-ow of an un - known room? Emp - ty

5

cresc.

eyes with no more tears to cry turn - ing

cresc.

7

heav - en - ward toward the light.

With intensity

mf unis.

Cry - in' Je - sus

mf unis. ~~xxx~~ Meek - head

\*May be sung 1/2 step lower

\*\*Alternate text: Who will

NO →  
Breath or  
BREAK!

one breath →

9

help me to see the morn-in' light of one more day, but if

*f* *mf*

*small 2 (sing, mod)*

NO BREATH!

I should die before I wake. I pray my soul to take. Can you

*mp* *mf*

13

feel the hearts of the children aching for

*mp* *f*

*raise pitch*

think high

home, for some-thing of their ver-y own. Reach-ing

*unis.* *f*

17

hands with noth-ing to hold on to, but hope for a

*2*

With intensity

unis. > >

bet - ter day, — a bet - ter — day. Cry - in' \*Je - sus

21 *f* n.b.

help me — to feel the love a - gain — in my own land, but if

*f* n.b.

dim. e rit. Slowly unis. 24 25

un-known roads lead a-way from home, — give me lov-ing arms, — way from harm.

dim. e rit. unis. scooping

26 *mf* n.b. *cresc.* *poco rit.*

Woh, — lah dah dah \*\*\*dohm

Ooh, woh, — lah dah dah \*\*\*dohm, lah dah dah lah dah dohm

*mf* n.b. *cresc.* *poco rit.*

Ooh — lah dah dah \*\*\*dohm.

close to 12

Always start who will  
 build up the intensity to achieve briskness, waiting until meas. 29 to increase tempo.  
 sound in dohm each time.

Slightly faster ♩ = 80

*ff*

*dim. e rit.*

32

Tempo I

*unis. mp*

Woh. — doh — doh — dah — dah dah doh. — Can you —

let 2nds come through  
\*under 2nds\*

33

hear — the voice of the chil - dren —

soft ly  
hushed → whisper  
poco

35

plead - ing — for si - lence in their shat - tered world? An - gry —

not soft!  
sfz

guns — preach a gos-pel full of — hate, — blood of the in-no-cent — on their —

Resolute

*mf*

*cresc.*

Warmer, smoothly

*unis.*

*mp* *ff* 41 42

hands. Cry-in' \*Je-sus help me — to feel the sun a-gain, up-on my face? For when

*mp* *unis.* *ff* *No CLEAR* *No diminuendo (sp?)*

*rit. e dim.* *mp* 44 *a tempo unis.* *pp*

dark - ness clears, I know you're near, bring-ing peace a - gain. — Da - li —  
(Dol - ly —

*rit. e dim.* *mp* *unis.* *pp*

NO SCOPPIE!

45 *cresc. 3* 46

čü - je te — sve dje - čje mol - it - ve? —  
chew - ye tay — sfay dyay-chyay mo - leet - vay? — )

*cresc.*

3

47 *Rubato* *rit. e dim.* *p* *morendo*

Can you hear the pray'r of the chil - dren? *close + sig. on the*

*rit. e dim.* *p* *morendo*

\* Alternate text: Who will  
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