

Fall into Sleep

There is a deep rumbling undertone, like the resonant echo of a stone closing forever over a tomb. It is the abstract sound of a battlefield of distant guns, darkness and sadness and hearts breaking. And then, pure, like the thin spindle of light splitting the darkness, there is a thin beautiful sung note, and speaking

SOPRANO
ALTO

TENOR
BASS

7

Fires die to embers, and we fall to the earth, we fall into the earth, and it holds us.
We close our eyes and we disappear, our faces fading into the dusk of things that
have passed. We fade like failing memories, falling into endless sleep, falling into
forever, falling endlessly to stillness in the deep, dark earth, falling as softly as a fall of
poppies.

14

For dust thou art _____ and un-to dust shalt

For dust thou art _____ and un-to dust shalt

22

thou re - turn. _____

thou re - turn. _____

And the earth closes over, and our mouths fill with earth.
 Mouths that have laughed to see the wind rushing through the trees,
 Mouths that have kissed, mouths that have cursed the cold and coughed out
 oaths in shell splintered dawns.

And the earth closes over, and our mouths fill with earth, and like photographs
 undeveloping themselves, like knitted sleeves unravelling, like letters unwriting
 themselves, like clocks running backwards, like flowers furling back into buds,
 we are dreamed into the tellings of history.

32

In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat

39

bread, till thou re-turn un-to the ground; for out of it wast thou tak-en: for

44

dust thou art and un-to dust shalt thou re - turn

51

Nunc dim-it-tis serv-um tu-um, Do-min - e, se - cun dum

Nunc dim-it-tis serv-um tu-um, Do-min - e, se - cun dum

59

ver-bum tu-um in pa - ce. Lord now lett-est thou thy ser-vant de-part in peace,
 ver-bum tu-um in pa - ce. Nunc dim-it-tis serv-um tu - um, Do - min -

65

— Lord now lett-est thou thy serv-ant depart in peace — acc-ord-ing to thy
 e, se - cun dum ver-bum tu - um in pa - ce.

71

word. For mine eyes have seen thy sal - vat ion —
 Nunc dim-it-tis serv-um tu-um, Do - min - e,

78

which thou hast prepared be-fore the face of all peo ple — a light — to
 se - cun dum ver-bum tu-um in pa - ce.

84

light-en the gen- tiles — and the glo - ry — the glor -

94

y of thy peo - ple Is - ra - el.

104

We fade in to his - tor y, We

111

fall in - to dark - ness, dark - ness. We
fade in - to his - to ry We fall in - to

116

in - to sleep.
dark - ness dark - ness, we fall
in - to his - to - ry. We fall in - to dark - ness,
We fade in - to

121

aah

in - to sleep. aah

dark - ness, we fall in - to sleep

his - to - ry. we fall in - to dark- ness, dark - ness.

127

We fade in - to his - to - ry We fall in - to

134

dark- ness We fall in - to sleep We fall in - to

142

sleep. We fall in to sleep

150

we fall in to sleep