November 15, 1935 – Leaving Santa Barbara
for solo male Intoning Voice and Violin
with spoken voice aside

words & melody notated by Harry Partch
intonation, musical arrangement & harmony by Marc Sabat

PLAIN SOUND MUSIC EDITION
Note:

The words and melody of “November 15, 1935 – Leaving Santa Barbara” are taken from a sketch by American composer Harry Partch, originally notated in “Bitter Music”, a diary of his hobo travels across America during the Great Depression. In this particular fragment, while hitchhiking Partch is picked up by a truck driver who is a born-again-Christian of Filipino origin.

The microtones are intended to be performed in Just Intonation and are explicitly notated using The Extended Helmholtz-Ellis JI Pitch Notation, developed by Marc Sabat and Wolfgang von Schweinitz in Berlin, 2000-2004.

The violinist’s voice and instrument may be somewhat amplified if necessary; in general the voice should follow the character of American traditional folk singing (e.g. as recorded by Harry Smith in his “Anthology of American Folk Music”). Ideally, all of the voices should retain a character of unadorned simplicity based on ordinary speech, without vocal mannerisms.
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“Do you know the Lord? How do you know Him? Have you seen Him?
I’m telling you, brother, you won’t see Him until you come to Jesus and confess your sins…”
(the Filipino who has picked me up is talking).

“For two years I gave my life to sin and the devil. I had gambling, whiskey, women. I can make a good living gambling. Yes! But do I do it? No!
“I give my live to Jesus. I saw the Way of Salvation and came to Him – ‘Whosoever believeth in me shall have everlasting life’ – See? And now I am saving souls for Him. I don’t want your body. Jesus doesn’t want it. But your soul, brother!…”
(I gaze out over the ocean, and into the depths.)

Could my tears forever flow

“Why do you say ‘depths of the sea’?”

These for sin could not atone·
“You could say ‘the bottom of the sea’.”

Thou must save and Thou a-
“It sounds so strange to me when other people speak of the depths of the sea.”

“Whatever the Lord gives me to do - Amen! If I have work, Amen! If I have no work, Amen!
Glory to His Name!…”
(the Filipino talks continuously).

“God gave us everything. God created everything, isn’t it? And two thousand years ago He gave his only begotten Son to the world to be crucified on the Cross for its sins. And He gave us the New Testament. Glory to God that He did! Praise His Holy Name…”
(I rest my head against the jogging window and close my eyes,
listening to the sweet music from the throat of the Filipino.
He is talking so low now that he is barely audible above the motor.)

When my eyes shall close in death ·
Rock of ages cleft for me ·
Let me hide myself in ·

“Come to Jesus, beloved! I’m telling you, brother, no man can wash your sins away.
Only Jesus, Jesus, brother! God will take care of His beloved children if they will come to Him.
You will see the day when you will remember what I say now. Amen!…

“May God go with you and have mercy on you, brother…”
(the Filipino is leaving me at Ventura).

“Perhaps we will meet again someday. And then I hope you will come to Him.
You can wash your body, but only Jesus can wash your heart. Jesus - wash - all - your - sins - away. May God bless you, my brother!”

... could not atone ·
Thou must save and thou alone ·

“May God bless you,” I reply (softly).
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Intoning Voice

Voice Aside

Violin

Hand me down my walking cane, Oh, hand me down my walking cane, Oh,

ritenuto Slower

hand me down my walking cane I'm a-goin' t' leave on that midnight train, 'Cause all my sins are taken a-

(articulate all consonants throughout)

Do you know the Lord? How do you know Him?

(male voice - aside: spoken in free rhythm)

Have you seen Him? I'm telling you, brother, you won't see Him un-

 whitelist voiced, strong consonants as before

til you come to Jesus and confess your sins For two years I

(voice aside) (the Filipino who has picked me up is talking).

I gave my life to Sin and the Devil I had gam bling, whis-ky, wo-men.

I can make a good living gam bling. Yes! But do I do it? No!

I give my life to Jesus I saw the Way of Salvation and came to
Leaving Santa Barbara

Hi - m ‘Who - so - ver be - lie-veth in me shall have e-ver-las-ting li - fe’

See? And now I am sa-ving souls for Hi - m I don’t want your bo-dy

Je sus does-n’t want it But your soul, bro ther...

(voice aside) I gaze out over the ocean, and into the depths.

Why do you say ‘depths of the sea’? You could say ‘the bottom of the sea’... it sounds so strange to me when other people speak of the depths of the sea.”

What-e-ver the Lord gives me to do - A-me-n! If I have work, A-

me - n! If I have no work, A-me-n! Glo-ry to His Na-me!

(voice aside) (the Filipino talks continuously)

God gave us e-v’ry thing, God cre-a-ted e-v’ry thing, is - n’t it?
Leaving Santa Barbara

And two thousand years ago He gave His only beotten

Son to the world to be crucified on the Cross for its

breath!  And He gave us the New Testament. Glory to

God that He died Praise His Holy Name

(voice aside) I rest my head against the joggling window and close my eyes, listening to the sweet music from the throat of the Filipino.

He is talking so low now that he is barely audible above the motor. (sing along with Intoning Voice)

me. Let me hide myself in "Come to Jesus, beloved! I'm

tell ing you, broth er, no man can wash your sins away.

Oh - ly Jesus Jesus, brother, God will take care of His beloved children

(continue sustaining throughout following text until indicated end)
if they will come to Him. You will see the day when you will remember what I say.

now. Amen!... May God go with you and have mercy on you, brother. Perhaps we will meet a
gain some day. And then I hope you will come to Him.

You can wash your body, but only Jesus can wash your heart.

Jesus wash all your sins away. May God bless you my brother. Could not atone Thou must save and Thou atone

(voice aside) “May God bless you,” I reply.