

JUDITH SHATIN

AMULET

SSA choir with divisi



## Program Note

Amulet is a setting of the poem of the same name by the distinguished American poet Barbara Goldberg and is used with her kind permission. The poem, included below, powerfully implores God to spare us from our weaknesses, and to grant us more time on this earth. The opening line suggests a connection to the narrative of the escape of the Jews from Egypt that is commemorated in the festival of Passover. Yet, it also has a terrible contemporary resonance with the Covid-19 plague beginning in 2020. And, it also refers to the ever-present vice of envy warned about in the last of the Ten Commandments: Thou shalt not covet. Commissioned and premiered by the New York Treble Singers, Amulet was composed during a residency at the Virginia Center for Creative Arts with support from the Virginia Commission for the Arts. –JS

### Amulet

By Barbara Goldberg

May the Lord of Death pass over our house,  
May the Lord of Envy not curdle our whey,  
May the Lord of Greed release us from craving,  
May the Great Lord of Time grant us a stay.

World Premiere New York Treble Singers Conductor Virginia Davidson Saint Peters Church NY, NY 1/18/2004
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Duration 2:40



Amulet

10 *mp*  
S1 Lord of Death Pass, O - ver our house.  
S2 Lord of Death Pass, o - ver our  
A Lord of Death

13 *mf* *p*  
S1 Pass o - ver our house, our house.  
S2 house, o - ver our house, our house. *mp*  
A Pass o - ver our house, our house. *mp*  
May the Lord, Lord, Lord,

17 *mf* *f*  
S1 May the Lord, the Lord, the Lord of en - vy,  
S2 Lord, May the Lord, the Lord, the Lord, the Lord of en - vy,  
A Lord, May the Lord, the Lord, the Lord, the Lord of en - vy,

20 *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*  
S1 Lord of en - vy, en - vy, en - vy, en - vy, en - vy, en - vy, en - vy,  
S2 Lord of en - vy, en - vy, en - vy, en - vy, en - vy, en - vy, en - vy, May the  
A Lord of en - vy, en - vy, en - vy, en - vy, en - vy, en - vy, en - vy, May the

Amulet

23

S1 *mf* May the Lord of en - vy not cur - dle our whey.

S2 *mp* Lord of en - vy not cur - dle our whey, not

A *mf* Lord of en - vy not cur - dle our whey. *mp* not

25

S1 *mp* *p* *mp* May the

S2 *p* *mp* cur-dle our whey, — our whey. — The Lord of Greed,

A *p* *mp* cur-dle our whey, — our whey. — May the Lord of greed, The Lord of Greed,

28

S1 *cresc.* *f* *mp* *mf* *mp* Lord of greed re - lease us from crav - ing re - lease us from crav - ing, — re -

S2 *cresc.* *f* *mp* *mf* *mp* Lord of Greed re - lease us from crav - ing re - lease us from crav - ing, — re -

A *cresc.* *f* *mp* *mf* *mp* Lord of greed re - lease us from crav - ing re - lease us, from crav - ing, — re -

31

S1 *mf* *p* *mf* *cresc.* *f* lease us from crav - ing — May the Lord, Lord, Lord, May the

S2 *mf* *p* *mp* *cresc.* *f* lease us from crav - ing — May the Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord,

A *mf* *p* lease us from crav - ing —

Amulet

34 *mf* *mp* *cresc.* *mf* *f*

S1 Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord, May the Lord, Lord, Lord, May the Great Lord of

S2 May the Lord, Lord, Lord, May the Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord, May the Great Lord of

A *f*

37 *mf* *f* *mf*

S1 time, Great Lord of Time

S2 time, Great Lord of Time,

A *mf* *f* *mf*

Great Lord of time, Great Lord of time, Great Lord of, Great Lord of time, Great Lord of time,

40 *mf* *f* *mp* *mf*

S1 Great Lord of time, Great Lord of

S2 *mf cresc.* *f* *mp* *p cresc.*

A *mf cresc.* *f* *mp* *p cresc.*

Great Lord of, Great Lord of time. Great Lord of, Great Lord of

Great Lord of, Great Lord of time, Great Lord of, Great Lord of

44 *f* *mp* *mf* *mf*

S1 time, May the Lord, Lord, Lord, May the Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord,

S2 *f* *mp* *mf*

A *f* *mp* *mf*

time, May the Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord,

time, Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord,

Amulet

50

S1 *f* Grant us a stay, Grant us a stay. *mf* Great Lord of time, *f* *mp*

S2 *f* Grant us a stay, Grant us a stay. *mf* Great Lord of, Great Lord of time, *f* *mp*

A *f* Grant, Grant us a stay, Grant us a stay. *mf* Great Lord of, Great Lord of time.

54

S1 *mf* Great Lord of time, *f* *mp* May the Lord, Lord, May the

S2 *mf* Great Lord of, Great Lord of time, *f* *mp* May the Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord,

A *f* Great Lord of time, *mp* Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord,

57

S1 Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord, *f* Grant us, Grant us, Grant us a stay.

S2 Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord, *f* Grant us, Grant us, Grant us a stay.

A Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord, *f* Great Lord, Great Lord, Lord of time,

60

S1 *cresc. al fine* Grant us a stay, Grant us a stay, a stay, a stay, a stay.

S2 *cresc. al fine* Grant us a stay, Grant us a stay, a stay, a stay, a stay.

A *cresc. al fine* Lord of time, Grant us a stay, a stay, a stay, a stay.