

“The Quality of Mercy”

From William Shakespeare’s play, “The Merchant of Venice”, Arnold Harris has set Portia’s famous speech, “The Quality of Mercy”.

In a flowing 5/4 meter with a slow and thoughtful tempo, Harris brings music to match the meaning of Shakespeare’s timeless words about the rewards for both the one who gives and the one who receives “mercy”.

The Quality of Mercy

From "The Merchant of Venice"
by William Shakespeare

Music by Arnold Harris ©2022

♩ = 100

SOPRANO/
ALTO

TENOR/
BASS

Piano

mp

mp

mp

1. The qua - li - ty of
2. on the place be -

1. The qua - li - ty of
2. on the place be -

4

S./A

T/B

Pno.

1. mer - cy is not strained it drop - peth, drop -
2. neath it is twice blessed it bles - seth him that

1. mer - cy is not strained it drop - peth, drop -
2. neath it is twice blessed it bles - seth him that

8

S./A

1. peth as the gen - tle, gen - tle rain, rain of hea - ven. Up - gives. The
2. gives and ___ him that takes and him, that ___ gives. The

T/B

1. peth as the gen - tle, gen - tle rain, rain of hea - ven. Up - gives.
2. gives and ___ him that takes and him, that ___ gives.

Pno.

13

S./A

mp
qua-li - ty of mer - cy is not strained. tenors it drop - peth, drop -

T/B

mp

Pno.

mp

18

S./A

T/B

Pno.

mf

peth

basses

+ tenors

rain of hea - ven. Up -

as the gen - tle, gen - tle rain, rain of hea - ven. Up -

22

S./A

T/B

Pno.

pon the place be - neath it is twice blessed___ it

on the place be___ neath it is___ twice blessed___ it

26

S./A
bles - seth him that gives and him that takes and him that

T/B
bless - seth him that gives and him that takes and him that

Pno.

30

S./A
gives and him that takes and him that gives. The

T/B
gives and him that takes and him that gives. The

Pno.

p *mf*

33

S./A
qua-li - ty of mer - cy is not strained it

T/B
qua-li - ty of mer - cy is not strained it

Pno.

37

S./A
drop - peth, drop - peth as the gen - tle, gen - tle rain, rain of hea - ven. rit.

T/B
drop - peth, drop - peth as the gen - tle, gen - tle rain, rain of hea - ven.

Pno.