

Anahit's Complaint

from "The Illuminator" - Scene 2 *

Music: Ron Hannah
Libretto: Andrea Mellis
© 2015

♩ = 112 *mf*

Anahit (Alto)

Piano *mf*

All day, ev-'ry day,

An. All right, once a week, Still, to climb up this hill ev-en once a

7 week is not ea - sy. Why does wa - ter feel like

10 no-thing when it's rain up - on your face, And like all the world

sim.

(A)

* (The widow Anahit has been bringing St. Gregory bread and water for many years, as he languishes in a hole in the ground, banished there by the king to die. Finally the angels watching over Gregory turn Anahit's complaining voice into the squawks of a crane - the national bird of Armenia.)

13 **(B)**

An. when it's car-ried in a pot? And the bread: Who milled the

17 *cresc.*

An. flour? Made the fire?

20

An. Knead-ed the dough and slapped it on the walls of the pit?

23 **(C)** *f* *mf*

An. Is that no-thing? So I have to climb

27

An.

up this wretch-ed hill, sum - mer and win - ter, heat and frost, And in de-

sim.

30

An.

fi - ance of roy - al de - cree? And does he e - ven -

34

An.

thank me? Does Greg - 'ry say: Thank you, An - a - hit - jan*

37

An.

For bak - ing the bread? For draw - ing the wa - ter?

(Attaching "jan" to someone's name indicates friendship and respect)

Anahit's Complaint

4

41 *cresc.*

An. No, he does not. — He gives me his bless-ing. Bless-ing!

45 **(F)** *f*

An. What can I do — with a

47

An. bless - ing? Patch my shoes?

49 **(G)**

An. Shade my head? Mend the pot?

52 *f*

An. *f*

And in six days do it a-gain: Mill the flour, make the fire, knead

mf

56 *molto cresc.*

An. *molto cresc.*

the bread, draw the wa-ter, Climb the hill, climb, climb,

cresc.

60 *ff* Crane noises (ad lib.-improvise, do not sing as written) (Gregory - seeing a vision of cranes, sent by the angels)

An. *ff*

climb, Cra-a! Cra-a! Cra-a! (Ah, how beau - ti - ful!)

mf