

In Memoriam: George Floyd  
*I Can't Breathe.....*

William Reyer

Doug McConnell

*Driving* ♩ = 108-112

*f* (Spoken, with great anguish:  
"I can't breathe!.....") *Driving* ♩ = 108-112

*p* (breathy, but intense)

I can't breathe the air of murder

*mp* (less breathy)

I can't breathe the air of racism

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a 2/4 time signature and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a sustained chord in the right hand. The vocal line is in the bass clef. The score is divided into three systems. The first system shows the vocal line with a fermata and the piano accompaniment. The second system begins with a measure rest and contains the lyrics 'I can't breathe the air of murder'. The third system begins with a measure rest and contains the lyrics 'I can't breathe the air of racism', with a triplet of eighth notes under 'racism'. Dynamics include *f* (forte), *p* (piano), and *mp* (mezzo-piano). Performance instructions include 'Spoken, with great anguish' and 'less breathy'. A tempo marking of 108-112 beats per minute is provided for the driving accompaniment.

2  
12

*mf* (full voice)

I can't breathe the air of

16

*f* (intense)

vi - o - lence I can't breathe the air of

20

*f*

ha - tred I can't breathe the air of

24

*mf*

cru - el - ty with - out think - ing of you

28 *ff* Proclaim!) 3

George Floyd!

32 *f*

*f* (intense)

George

36 *f*

Floyd!

George Floyd!

40

George Floyd!

*rallentando*

*Slower, solemn* ♩ = 88-92

44 *rallentando*  
mf

*Simple, direct* ♩ = 88-92

48 *mp*  
Rest in peace and  
*mp (sempre legato)*

52 *mf*  
po - wer! Rest in peace in peace and  
*mf*  
*mp*

56 *mf*  
pow - er! Rest  
*mf*  
*mp*

60

in peace, in peace

*mf*

64

*mf* **With Resolve** ♩ = 84-88

and power!

RH  
*f*  
LH

68

Rest in peace and

*f*

72

power! Rest in peace in peace and

6  
76

pow - er *f* peace and

RH  
L.V.

80

pow - er! (stretch....)

*A Tempo.....*  
*mp* (prayerfully)

84

Rest in peace in peace

*A Tempo.....*  
*mp* (sempre legato)

88

*mf* (freely) and

*mf*

92

*mp* (prayerfully) 7

pow - er! \_\_\_\_\_ George \_\_\_\_\_

*mp* *mf*

97

*p*

\_\_\_\_\_ Floyd! \_\_\_\_\_

*mp* (tenderly) *p*