

# O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

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**for Mixed Choir (SATB) and Organ**

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**Phillip A. Cooke**

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## for Mixed Choir (SATB) and Organ

(2005, rev. 2018)

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### PERFORMANCE NOTE

A sense of austereness should prevail throughout

A prior knowledge of Gregorian chant and early polyphony (c. 1200) would help in achieving desired sound

In the *Senza misura* section (bar 79) the melody is to be taken by the strongest singer from the choir, this could be S, A, T or B (at the appropriate octave). If there is no obvious choice for this role, it is to be taken by sopranos. Here the organ holds the chord until each line has been sung.

Written for my Grandmother (Margaret Heudebourck), in celebration of her 80th birthday.

First performed by the Keswick Choral Society, conducted by Ian Hare, with Mike Town (organ) at Crosthwaite Church, Keswick, on 20 December 2005.

<b>Duration:</b>	4 minutes
<b>Cover photograph:</b>	'Organ at Crosthwaite Church' (Cooke)
<b>For more information:</b>	<a href="http://www.phillipcooke.com">www.phillipcooke.com</a>

### TEXT

O magnum mysterium  
et admirabile sacramentum  
ut animalia viderunt dominum  
natum jacentum in praesepe.  
Beata Virgo cuius viscera  
meruerunt portare Dominum Christum.  
Alleluia.

Amen

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

*O magnum mysterium* was composed for my local, hometown choir the Keswick Choral Society and their director Ian Hare. I had long been attracted to these words, maybe due to them dealing with the mystery and majesty of the birth of Christ, rather than the more run-of-the-mill fayre found at Christmastime. Ian wanted something both easy to sing and with melody so I decided upon open fifths, not just as it gave an evocative sound-world but it meant that no one group of singers was ever exposed. I counteracted this by the sudden stripping of the texture to solo voice for the 'Alleluia'. The work is dedicated to my Grandmother (who formally sang in the choir and others).

PAC

For My Grandmother, on her 80th birthday

# O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

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RESPONSORY AT MATINS  
ON CHRISTMAS DAY

PHILLIP A. COOKE (2005, rev. 2018)

Andante austero (♩ = c.104)

Musical score for the organ introduction, measures 1-5. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. The top two staves are for the vocal parts (SATB), which are currently silent. The bottom two staves are for the organ. The organ part begins with a *mp* dynamic and features a melodic line in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand. Dynamics increase to *sub. f* and then *ff*. A 16' stop is indicated in the left hand. The organ part concludes with a *f* to *ff* dynamic range.

Musical score for the vocal entry and organ accompaniment, measures 6-10. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. The top two staves are for the vocal parts (SATB). The vocal parts enter in measure 6 with the lyrics "O mag -". The dynamics are *pp*. The bottom two staves are for the organ. The organ part continues with a melodic line in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand. Dynamics are *pp*. The organ part concludes with a *p* dynamic range.

11 *pp*  
num mys - ter - i - um O mag - num mys - ter - i -  
num mys - ter - i - um O mag - num mys - ter - i -

16 *p* *cresc.*  
um O mag - num mys - ter - i - um O mag -  
um O mag - num mys - ter - i - um O mag -

*mp cresc.*  
*cresc.*

21 *ff* *maestoso*

- num mys - ter - i - um et ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men -

*ff* *maestoso*

- num mys - ter - i - um et ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men -

*f*

*f*

rit. . . . . meno mosso (♩ = c.88)

25

tum

*sub. mp*

tum O mag - num mys - ter - i - um

*P dolce*

*mp*

29 *p* \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* \_\_\_\_\_

ut an - i - ma - li - a

32 \_\_\_\_\_ *p* \_\_\_\_\_ *p* \_\_\_\_\_

vi - der - unt

ut an - i - ma - li - a

35 *mf* ————— *p*

Do - mi - num

*p* ————— *mf*

vi - der - unt Do - mi - num

accel. . . . . **Primo tempo** (♩ = c.104)

38 *mf* ————— *ff* *maestoso*

na - tum ja - cen - tum in prae - se - pi - o

*p* *sub. mf* ————— *ff* *maestoso*

na - tum ja - cen - tum in prae - se - pi - o

*mf* ————— *f*

(16')

*mf* ————— *f*



42 *sub. mp*

prae - se - pi - o O mag - num mys - ter - i -

prae - se - pi - o

*sub. mp*

**più mosso** (♩ = c.120)

45

um

*f spiritoso*

*f*

49 *f* *vigoroso*

Be - a - ta Vir - go cu - ius vis - cer - a

Be - a - ta Vir - go cu - ius vis - cer - a

53 *f*

Be - a - ta Vir - go cu - ius vis - cer - a

Be - a - ta Vir - go cu - ius vis - cer - a

57

*f*

rit. . . . . **Primo tempo** (♩ = c.104)

61

*p*

me - ru - e - runt por - ta -

*p*

me - ru - e - runt por - ta -

*sub. p*

*sub. p*

65 *mp*

re me - ru - e - runt por - ta -

re me - ru - e - runt por - ta -

69 *ff* *maestoso*

-re me - ru - e - runt por - ta - - re Dom -

-re me - ru - e - runt por - ta - - re Dom -

*mp cresc.*

*cresc.*

72

in - um Chris - - - tum Dom -

in - um Chris - - - tum Dom -

*f* *sub. mp*

*f* *sub. mp*

rit. . . . .

75

in - um Chris - - - tum

in - um Chris - - - tum

*f*

Senza misura (♩ = c.88)

79 Solo\* *P*

A - lle - lu - i - a A - lle - lu - i - a

*pp*

\* (See programme note for explanation)

Misterioso (♩ = c.88)

80 (Tutti) *pp* *lunga*

A - - - - men *lunga*

A - - - - men *lunga*

*pp* *lunga*

(Add 32') *lunga*