

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM



for Mixed Choir (SATB) and Organ

Phillip A. Cooke

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

for Mixed Choir and Organ

(2005)

PERFORMANCE NOTES

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.

Duration: 4 minutes

Cover photograph: Organ at Crosthwaite Church (Cooke)

For more information: www.phillipcooke.co.uk

PERFORMANCE NOTES

O magnum mysterium was composed for my local, hometown choral society 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 soundworld 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

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

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

Amen

For My Grandmother, on her 80th birthday

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

RESPONSORY AT MATINS
ON CHRISTMAS DAY

for Mixed Choir (SATB) & Organ

PHILLIP A. COOKE (2005)

Foundation stops 8ft
Ped. 16 ft

Austere (♩ = c.104)

S
A
T
B
Organ
Ped.

mp *sub. f* *ff*
f *ff*

6 **A** *p*
O mag -
p
O mag -
p

11

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

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

16

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

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

B

ff *maestoso*

21

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

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

f

f

C

rit. - - - - Slightly warmer (♩ = c.88)

25

tum

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

sub. mp

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

D

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*

Ped:

mf ————— *f*

6 (3 + 2)

42 *sub. mp*
prae - se - pi - o O mag - num mys - ter - i -

sub. mp

This musical score block contains measures 42, 43, and 44. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 5/4. Measure 42 is marked with a dynamic of *sub. mp*. The piano part consists of chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The lyrics are: "prae - se - pi - o O mag - num mys - ter - i -".

E

Slightly warmer (A tempo)

45
um

f spiritoso

f

This musical score block contains measures 45, 46, 47, and 48. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 5/4. Measure 45 is marked with a dynamic of *f* and the tempo instruction *spiritoso*. The lyrics are: "um". The piano part consists of chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The lyrics are: "um".

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* *vigoroso*

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

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

57

f spiritoso

H

Austere (A tempo)

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

I

Senza misura (♩ = c.88)

79 Solo* *p*

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

pp

* (See programme note for explanation)

J

Mysteriously (♩ = c.88)

80 (Tutti) *pp* *lunga*

A - - - - men *lunga*

A - - - - men *lunga*

pp *lunga*

(Add 32')