

jeffrey ryan

...sempiternam

for double SATB choir *a cappella*

Perusal Copy

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Performance Notes:

Duration ca. 4:30.

The two SATB choirs may be mixed or placed side by side onstage. The work also lends itself to antiphonal placement or surrounding the audience.

The reduction for piano is for rehearsal only.

Programme Notes:

This short meditative work for double *a cappella* choir is a setting of the Agnus Dei text from the Latin Requiem Mass. It creates a gentle, warm and enveloping atmosphere through antiphonal and canonic effects, simple weaving melodic fragments, and static modal harmonies reminiscent of Renaissance choral music.

...sempiternam is adapted from the *Agnus Dei* movement from *Afghanistan: Requiem for a Generation* (commissioned by the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and One Yellow Rabbit, with original poetry by Suzanne Steele).

Text and Translation:

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem sempiternam

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant them rest.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant them rest.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant them eternal rest.

words: latin requiem mass

...sempiternam

music: jeffrey ryan

♩ = 72 *Ethereal, transparent, gently moving*

CHORUS DIVISI INTO EQUAL CHOIRS I AND II

pp sempre

The musical score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-8) features vocal parts for Choir I (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and Choir II (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass). The lyrics are "A - gnus De - i A - gnus De -". The piano accompaniment is marked with a first ending bracket [1] and *pp sempre*. The second system (measures 9-16) includes a rehearsal mark [A] above the vocal parts. The lyrics continue with "i A - gnus De - i A - gnus". The piano accompaniment continues with *pp sempre*. The third system (measures 17-24) features the lyrics "qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta". The piano accompaniment continues with *pp sempre*. A second ending bracket [9] is placed at the beginning of the piano part in the third system.

S
A I T
B

De - i A - gnus De - i

S
A II T
B

pec - ca - ta mun - di do - na - e - is

15



S
A I T
B

B

A - gnus De - i A -

S
A II T
B

re - qui - em (m) A - gnus De -

21

S
A

I gnus De - i qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta

T
B

S
A

II i A - gnus De - i

T
B

27

S
A

I mun - di pec - ca - ta mun - di

T
B

S
A

II A - gnus De - i A - gnus De -

T
B

34

40

S
A
I
T
B

qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta

S
A
II
T
B

i A - gnus De - i A - gnus

46

S
A
I
T
B

pec - ca - ta mun - di do - na e -

S
A
II
T
B

De - i A - gnus De - i

46

46

D

S
A I T
B

is re - qui - em re - qui -

S
A II T
B

A - gnus De - i A - gnus De - i

52

S
A I T
B

em (m) A - gnus De - i A - gnus

S
A II T
B

A - gnus De - i

58

S
A I
T
B

De - i - A - gnus De - i

S
A II
T
B

A - gnus De - i A -

64



S
A I
T
B

A - gnus De - i qui

S
A II
T
B

gnus De - i A - gnus De - i

70

S A I T B
tol - lis pec - ca - ta mun - di qui tol - lis pec -

S A II T B
qui tol - lis pec - ca - ta mun di qui tol - lis

76



S A I T B
ca - ta mun - di do - na e - is do - na

S A II T B
pec - ca - ta mun - di do - na e - is

81

H

S
A
I
T
B

e - is re - qui - em re - qui -

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal parts for Soprano I and Tenor I. The music is in a key with two flats and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are 'e - is re - qui - em re - qui -'. The notation includes treble and bass clefs, notes, rests, and bar lines.

S
A
II
T
B

do - na e - is re - qui - em

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal parts for Soprano II and Tenor II. The music is in a key with two flats and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are 'do - na e - is re - qui - em'. The notation includes treble and bass clefs, notes, rests, and bar lines.

87

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 87-92. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The music consists of chords and moving lines in both hands, supporting the vocal parts.



S
A
I
T
B

em sem - pi ter - nam sem - pi ter - nam

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal parts for Soprano I and Tenor I. The music is in a key with two flats and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are 'em sem - pi ter - nam sem - pi ter - nam'. The notation includes treble and bass clefs, notes, rests, and bar lines.

S
A
II
T
B

re - qui - em sem - pi ter - nam sem - pi ter - nam (m)

Detailed description: This block contains the vocal parts for Soprano II and Tenor II. The music is in a key with two flats and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are 're - qui - em sem - pi ter - nam sem - pi ter - nam (m)'. The notation includes treble and bass clefs, notes, rests, and bar lines.

93

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 93-98. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The music consists of chords and moving lines in both hands, supporting the vocal parts.