

Q magnum mysterium

á 12

by

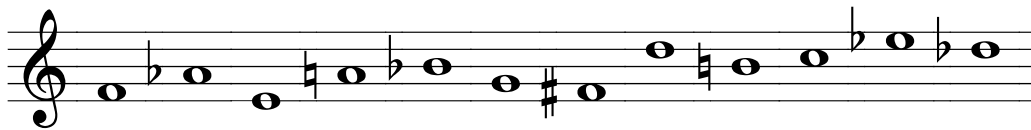
Charles H. Giffen

for

SSAT - SATB - ATBB

a cappella

voices





Notes on the composition

In this work, I have tried to capture the awe and reflect an aura of the calm, deep-night mystery of the Incarnation of Jesus in Bethlehem, where stable animals witnessed, with Mary and Joseph, a cosmic event that changed the course of history for ever - occurring in that “fulness of time, fixed by the unsearchable counsel of God, when the Son of God took upon him the nature of man, that he might reconcile it to its Maker.”

The music includes mainly twelve tone thematic but also whole tone harmonic material, which lend a sense of mystery and reverence as the music unfolds. The given markings for tempo are approximate and may be adjusted to suit the performance acoustics. The three 4-part groups may be separated by some distance if there is adequate space in the performance venue.

The text is the full responsory to the fourth lesson at Matins of Christmas Day and hence includes the short *Ave Maria, gratia plena: Dominus tecum* that is often omitted in musical settings.

<i>O magnum mysterium</i>	O great mystery
<i>et admirabile sacramentum,</i>	and wonderful sacrament,
<i>ut animalia viderent Dominum natum</i>	that animals should see the new-born Lord
<i>jacentem in præsepio!</i>	lying in a manger!

<i>O beata Virgo, cujus viscera</i>	O blessed is the Virgin, whose womb
<i>meruerunt portare Dominum Christum.</i>	was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.

<i>Ave Maria, gratia plena:</i>	Hail Mary, full of grace:
<i>Dominus tecum.</i>	the Lord is with you.

<i>O beata Virgo, cujus viscera</i>	Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
<i>meruerunt portare Dominum Christum.</i>	was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.

<i>Alleluia!</i>	Alleluia!
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magnum mysterium

Fourth responsory for
Matins of Christmas Day

SSAT - SATB - ATBB

Charles H. Giffen, 2011

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 40$

p

Cantus 1

ma -

p

Medius 1

gnum

p

Choir 1 (SSAT)
left side

Altus 1

ma - - -

p

Tenor 1

ste - ri - um.

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 40$

p

Cantus 2

O

p

Altus 2

O

p

Tenor 2

my - - - -

p

Bassus 2

my - - - -

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 40$

p

Altus 3

gnum

p

Tenor 3

gnum

p

Choir 3 (ATBB)
right side

Barytonus 3

um.

p

Bassus 3

ri - um.

13

C1 *p*
O my - ste - ri - um, _____

M1 *p*
my - ste - ri - um, _____

A1 *pp* *p* *mp*
my - ste - ri - um, _____ O ma - gnum my - ste - ri - um, _____

T1 *ppp* *pp* *p* *mp*
O ma - gnum _____ O ma - gnum my - ste - ri - um, _____

C2 *p*
O my - ste - ri - um, _____

A2 *pp* *p* *mp*
my - ste - ri - um, _____ O ma - gnum my - ste - ri - um, _____

T2 *ppp* *pp* *p* *mp*
O ma - gnum _____ O ma - gnum my - ste - ri - um, _____

B2 *ppp* *pp* *p* *mp*
O ma - gnum _____ O ma - gnum my - ste - ri - um, _____

A3 *pp* *p* *mp*
my - ste - ri - um, _____ O ma - gnum my - ste - ri - um, _____

T3 *ppp* *pp* *p* *mp*
O ma - gnum _____ O ma - gnum my - ste - ri - um, _____

Bt3 *ppp* *pp* *p* *mp*
O ma - gnum _____ O ma - gnum my - ste - ri - um, _____

B3 *ppp* *pp* *p* *mp*
O ma - gnum _____ O ma - gnum my - ste - ri - um, _____

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 48$

23

C1

M1

A1 *mp*
et _____ ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men - tum _____
p *mp*

T1 *p*
Al - le - lu - ia! _____ sa - cra - men - tum _____
 $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 48$

C2

A2 *mp*
et _____ ad - mi - ra - bi - le

T2 *p*
Al - le - lu - ia! _____ Al - le - lu - ia! _____

B2 *mp*
et _____ ad - mi - ra - bi - le

A3 23 *p*
Al - le - lu - ia! _____

T3 *p*
Al - le - lu - ia! _____

Bt3 *p*
Al - le - lu - ia! _____

B3 *mp*
et _____ ad - mi - ra - bi - le

29 *mp*

C1 ut a - ni - ma - li - a vi - de - rent

M1 *p* *mp*
Al-le-lu - ia! vi - de - rent

A1 *p*
Al-le-lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia!

T1 *p*
Al-le-lu - ia!

C2 *mp* ut a - ni - ma - li - a Al-le-lu - ia! *p*

A2 *p*
Al-le-lu - ia!

T2 *mp* ut a - ni - ma - li - a

B2 *p*
Al-le-lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia!

A3 29 *p*
Al-le-lu - ia!

T3 *mp*
Al-le-lu - ia! ut a - ni - ma - li - a

Bt3 *mp*
sa - cra - men - tum

B3 *p*
sa - cra - men - tum Al-le-lu - ia!

mp $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 60$ *f*

C1
Do - mi - num na - tum

M1
Do - mi - num na - tum

A1
Do - mi - num na - tum

T1
Do - mi - num na - tum

C2
mp $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 60$ *f*
Al - le - lu - ia! Do - mi - num na - tum

A2
Al - le - lu - ia! Do - mi - num na - tum

T2
*p*₃ Al - le - lu - ia! Do - mi - num na - tum

B2
Do - mi - num na - tum

A3
mp $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 60$ *f*
vi - - - de - rent Do - mi - num na - tum

T3
vi - - - de - rent Do - mi - num na - tum

Bt 3
*p*₃ Al - le - lu - ia! Do - mi - num na - tum

B3
Do - mi - num na - tum

43 *mp mf p mp pp*

C1
ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pi - o!

M1
ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pi - o!

A1
ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pi - o!

T1
ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pi - o!

C2
ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pi - o!

A2
ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pi - o!

T2
ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pi - o!

B2
ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pi - o!

43 *mp mf p mp pp*

A3
ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pi - o!

T3
ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pi - o!

Bt3
ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pi - o!

B3
ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pi - o!

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 48$

53

C1
M1
A1
T1

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 48$

C2
A2
T2
B2

p *ra* —
mp *mf* *p*
mp *mf* *p*
p *mp* *mf* *p*

jus — *sce* — — — *ra* —
go, — *vi* — — — *ra* —

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 48$

53

A3
T3
Bt3
B3

p *mp* *mf* *p*
p *mp* *mf* *p*
p *mp* *mf* *p*
p *mp* *mf* *p*

O — *ta* — *go,* — *vi* — — — *ra* —
a — *Vir* — *jus* — — — *sce* — — — *ra* —
be — *Vir* — *cu* — — — *sce* — — — *ra* —
a — *go,* — *jus* — — — *sce* — — — *ra* —

65

p *mp* *mf* *f*

C1 e - ta - mi - Chri - - - stum. —

p *mp* *mf* *f*

M1 me - por - Do - - - - Chri - - - stum. —

p *mp* *mf* *f*

A1 ru - por - mi - - - - Chri - - - stum. —

p *mp* *mf* *f*

T1 me - runt — re — num — stum. —

p *mp* *mf* *f*

C2 — por - Do - - - - Chri - - - stum. —

mp *mf* *f*

A2 — ta - num —

mp *mf* *f*

T2 — mi - - - - Chri - - - stum. —

f

B2 — stum. —

65

A3 —

T3 —

Bt3 —

B3 —

78 $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 60$

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *pp* *p*

C1
A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do - mi - nus te - cum.

M1
A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do - mi - nus te - cum.

A1
A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do - mi - nus te - cum.

T1
A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do - mi - nus te - cum.

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 60$

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *pp* *p*

C2
A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do - mi - nus te - cum.

A2
A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do - mi - nus te - cum.

T2
A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do - mi - nus te - cum.

B2
A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do - mi - nus te - cum.

78 $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 60$

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *pp* *p*

A3
A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do - mi - nus te - cum.

T3
A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do - mi - nus te - cum.

Bt3
A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do - mi - nus te - cum.

B3
A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do - mi - nus te - cum.

♩ = c. 48

91 *p* *mp*

C1 *me-ru - e - runt* *por-ta-re*

M1 *mp*
O be - a - ta Vir - go, cu - jus vi - sce - ra

A1 *mp*
O be - a - ta _____ Vir - go, _____ cu - jus vi - sce - ra _____

T1 *mp*
♩ = c. 48 O be - a - ta Vir - go, cu - jus vi - sce - ra

C2 *p* *mp*

C2 *me-ru - e - runt* *por-ta-re*

A2 *mp*
O be - a - ta _____ Vir - go, _____ cu - jus vi - sce - ra _____

T2 *mp*
me-ru - e - runt por - - -

B2 *p* *mp*
♩ = c. 48 O be - a - ta _____ Vir - go, cu - jus vi - sce - ra _____

91 *mp*

A3 *me - ru - e - runt* *por - ta - re*

T3 *mp*
me-ru - e - runt por - - -

Bt3 *mp*
me - ru - e - runt *por - ta - re*

B3 *p* *mp*
O be - a - ta _____ Vir - go, cu - jus vi - sce - ra _____

101 *mf*
C1 Do-mi - num Chri - stum. Chri - stum. *mf*
M1 Chri - stum. *mf*
A1 Chri - stum. *mf*
T1 Chri - stum.
C2 Do-mi - num Chri - stum. Do-mi - num *mf*
A2 Do-mi - num *mf*
T2 ta - re Do-mi-num Chri - stum. Chri - stum. *mf*
B2 Do-mi - num *mf*
101 A3 Do - mi - num Chri - stum. Do-mi - num *mf*
T3 ta - re Do-mi-num Chri - stum. Chri - stum. *mf*
Bt3 Do - mi - num Chri - stum. Do-mi - num *mf*
B3 Do-mi - num

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 48$

123 *mp*

C1 Al - ia! _____

M1 *mp*

lu -

A1 *mf* *mp*
Al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - i - a, al - le - lu - i - a!

T1 *mf*
Al - le - lu - ia! _____

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 48$ *mp*

C2 le - - -

A2 *mf* *mp*
Al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - i - a, al - le - lu - i - a!

T2 *mf*
Al - le - lu - ia! _____

B2 *mf*
Al - le - lu - ia! _____

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 48$ 123 *mf* *mp*

A3 Al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - i - a, al - le - lu - i - a!

T3 *mf*
Al - le - lu - ia! _____

Bt3 *mf*
Al - le - lu - ia! _____

B3 *mf*
Al - le - lu - ia! _____

132 *mp* *p* *mp* $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 40$

C1 *Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-i-a, al-le-lu-i-a!*

M1 *Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-i-a, al-le-lu-i-a!*

A1 *Al-le-lu-*

T1 *Al- ia! Al-le-lu-*

C2 *Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-i-a, al-le-lu-i-a!*

A2 *Al-le-lu-*

T2 *le - - - Al-le-lu-*

B2 *Al-le-lu-*

A3 *Al-le-lu-*

T3 *lu - A-le-lu-*

Bt3 *Al-le-lu-*

B3 *Al-le-lu-*

141 *mp* *rit.* $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 30$ *p* *pp*

C1 Al - le - lu - i - a, al - le - lu - i - a!

M1 *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*

A1 *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*

T1 *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*

C2 *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*

A2 *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*

T2 *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*

B2 *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*

A3 *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*

T3 *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*

Bt3 *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*

B3 *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*