

Q magnum mysterium

á 12

by

Charles H. Giffen

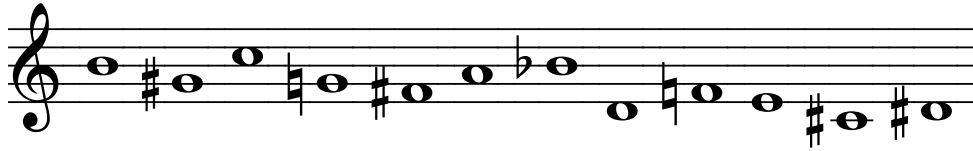
for

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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O magnum mysterium

Fourth responsory for
Matins of Christmas Day

SSAT - SATB - ATBB

Charles H. Giffen (b. 1940)

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 48$

2011-06-24

2011-06-24

2015-07-31

2019-01-13

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A

p
C 1 *O my - ste - ri - um, —*

p
M 1 *O my - ste - ri - um, —*

pp
A 1 *my - ste - ri - um, —*

ppp *pp*
T 1 *O ma - gnum —*

p
C 2 *O my - ste - ri - um, —*

pp
A 2 *my - ste - ri - um, —*

ppp *pp*
T 2 *O ma - gnum —*

ppp *pp*
B 2 *O ma - - - gnum*

pp
A 3 *my - ste - ri - um, —*

ppp *pp*
T 3 *O ma - gnum —*

ppp *pp*
Bt 3 *O ma - gnum —*

ppp *pp*
B 3 *O ma - - - gnum*

B $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 52$

19

C1

M1

A1

T1

C2

A2

T2

B2

A3

T3

Bt3

B3

pp *p* *mp* *p* *p₃*

O ma - gnum my - ste - ri - um, et ad - mi - ra - bi - le

O ma - gnum my - ste - ri - um, Al - le - lu - ia!

O ma - gnum my - ste - ri - um, et ad - mi - ra - bi - le

O ma - gnum my - ste - ri - um, Al - le - lu - ia!

O ma - gnum my - ste - ri - um,

O ma - gnum my - ste - ri - um,

O ma - gnum my - ste - ri - um, Al - le - lu - ia!

O ma - gnum my - ste - ri - um,

O ma - gnum my - ste - ri - um,

O ma - gnum my - ste - ri - um,

26

C 1 *mp* ut a - ni - ma-li -

M 1 *p*₃ Al-le-lu - ia! ____

A 1 sa - cra - men - tum ____

T 1 *mp* sa - cra - men - tum ____

C 2 *mp* ut a - ni - ma-li -

A 2 *p*₃ Al-le-lu - ia! ____

T 2 *p*₃ Al-le-lu - ia! ____

B 2 *mp* et ad - mi - ra-bi - le Al-le-lu - ia! ____

A 3 26 *p*₃ Al-le-lu - ia! ____

T 3 *p*₃ Al-le-lu - ia! ____

Bt 3 *p*₃ Al-le-lu - ia! ____

B 3 *mp* et ad - mi - ra-bi - le sa - cra - men - tum ____

31

C1 *a* *mp* *vi - de - - - rent*

M1 *vi - de - - - rent*

A1 *p*₃ *Al-le-lu - ia!* *Al-le-lu - ia!*

T1 *p*₃ *Al-le-lu - ia!*

C2 *a* *p*₃ *Al-le-lu - ia!*

A2 *Al-le-lu - ia!*

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

B2 *Al-le-lu - ia!*

A3 *p*₃ *Al-le-lu - ia!* *mp* *vi - de -*

T3 *mp* *ut* *a - ni - ma-li - a* *vi - de -*

Bt3 *Al-le-lu - ia!*

B3 *p*₃ *Al-le-lu - ia!*

36 C $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 64$ *p* *f* *mp*

C 1 Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

M 1 Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

A 1 Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

T 1 Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

C 2 *Al-le-lu - ia!* Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

A 2 Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

T 2 *Al-le-lu - ia!* Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

B 2 Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

A 3 *rent* Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

T 3 *rent* Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

Bt 3 Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

B 3 Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

45 *p* *mp* *pp* D $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 52$

C1
— in — præ - se - pi - o! —
p *mp* *pp*

M1
— in — præ - se - pi - o! —
p *mp* *pp*

A1
— in — prae - se - pi - o! —
p *mp* *pp*

T1
— in — præ - se - pi - o! —
p *mp* *pp*

C2
— in — præ - se - pi - o! —
p *mp* *pp*

A2
— in — præ - se - pi - o! —
p *mp* *pp*

T2
— in — præ - se - pi - o! —
p *mp* *pp*

B2
— in — præ - se - pi - o! —
p *mp* *pp*

45
A3
— in — præ - $\sharp$ se - $\sharp$ pi - o! — O — ta —
p *mp* *pp* *p*

T3
— in — præ - se - pi - o! —
p *mp* *pp* *p* a -

Bt3
— in — præ - se - pi - o! — be -
p *mp* *pp* *p*

B3
— in — præ - se - pi - o! — a -
p *mp* *pp* *p*

[illegible]

66

p *mp* *mf*

C1 e - - - ta - mi - - - Chri - - -

p *mp* *mf*

M1 me - por - Do - - - - Chri - - -

p *mp* *mf*

A1 ru - por - mi - - - Chri - - -

p *mp* *mf*

T1 runt re num

p *mp* *mf*

C2 por - Do - - - - Chri - - -

mp *mf*

A2 ta - num

mp *mf*

T2 mi - - - Chri - - -

B2

66

A3

T3

Bt3

B3

76 **F** $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 64$

C1 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*
 stum. A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

M1 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*
 stum. A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

A1 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*
 stum. A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

T1 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*
 stum. A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

C2 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*
 stum. A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

A2 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*
 stum. A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

T2 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*
 stum. A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

B2 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*
 stum. A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

A3 *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*
 A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

T3 *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*
 A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

Bt3 *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*
 A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

B3 *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*
 A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

G $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 48$

86 *p*

C1 - mi - nus te - cum. _____

M1 - mi - nus te - cum. _____ *mp* O be - a - ta Vir - go,

A1 - mi - nus te - cum. _____ *mp* O be - a - ta _____

T1 - mi - nus te - cum. _____ *mp* O be - a - ta Vir - go,

C2 - mi - nus te - cum. _____

A2 - mi - nus te - cum. _____ *mp* O be - a - ta _____

T2 - mi - nus te - cum. _____

B2 - mi - nus te - cum. _____ *p* O be - a - ta _____ *mf* Vir - go,

86 *p*

A3 - mi - nus te - cum. _____

T3 - mi - nus te - cum. _____

Bt3 - mi - nus te - cum. _____

B3 - mi - nus te - cum. _____ *p* O be - a - ta _____ *mf* Vir - go,

95 *p* *mp*

C 1 *me - ru - e - runt* *por - ta - re Do - mi - num*

M 1 *cu - jus vi - sce - ra*

A 1 *Vir - go, cu - jus vi - sce - ra*

T 1 *cu - jus vi - sce - ra*

C 2 *p* *mp*

C 2 *me - ru - e - runt* *por - ta - re Do - mi - num*

A 2 *Vir - go, cu - jus vi - sce - ra*

T 2 *mp*

T 2 *me - ru - e - runt por - - - ta - re*

B 2 *cu - jus vi - sce - ra*

95 *mp*

A 3 *me - ru - e - runt por - ta - re Do - mi -*

T 3 *mp*

T 3 *me - ru - e - runt por - - - ta - re*

Bt 3 *mp*

Bt 3 *me - ru - e - runt por - ta - re Do - mi -*

B 3 *cu - jus vi - sce - ra*

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 56$

102

C1 Chri - stum. _____

M1 _____ *mf* Chri - stum. _____

A1 _____ *mf* Chri - stum. _____

T1 _____ *mf* Chri - stum. _____

C2 Chri - stum. _____ *mf* Chri - stum. _____

A2 _____ *mf* Do-mi - num _____

T2 _____ *mf* Do-mi-num Chri - stum. _____ Chri - stum. _____

B2 _____ *mf* Do-mi - num _____

102

A3 num Chri - stum. _____ *mf* Do-mi - num _____

T3 _____ *mf* Do-mi-num Chri - stum. _____ Chri - stum. _____

Bt3 num Chri - stum. _____ *mf* Do-mi - num _____

B3 _____ *mf* Do-mi - num _____

H

♩ = c. 48

lu - - -

ya!

mp Al - - -

le -

mp ya!

mf Al - - -

p le - - -

p Al - - -

mf le - - -

p ya!

mp lu - - -

p lu - - -

I $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 52$ *mp* $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 56$

C1 *Al - ia!* *mp*

M1 *lu -*

A1 *mf* *3* *mp* *Al-le-lu-ia, al - le - lu-i - a, al - le - lu-i - a!* *mf*

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

C2 *mp* *le - - -*

A2 *mf* *3* *mp* *Al-le-lu-ia, al - le - lu-i - a, al - le - lu-i - a!* *mf*

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

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

A3 ¹²³ *mf* *3* *mp* *Al-le-lu-ia, al - le - lu-i - a, al - le - lu-i - a!* *mf*

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

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

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

Charles H. Gounod. O magnum mysterium

[J] $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 48$

C1 mp p mp $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 52$
Al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu-i - a, al - le - lu-i - a!

M1 mp p mp
Al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu-i - a, al - le - lu-i - a!

A1 mp
Al - le - lu -

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

C2 mp p mp
Al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu-i - a, al - le - lu-i - a!

A2 mp
Al - le - lu -

T2 p p mp
le - - - Al - le - lu -

B2 p mp
Al - le - lu -

A3 133 mp
Al - le - lu -

T3 p p mp
lu - A - le - lu -

Bt3 p mp
Al - le - lu -

B3 p mp
Al - le - lu -

142 $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 48$ K *mp* *rallentando* *p* *pp*

C1 *mp* *p* *pp*
Al - le - lu - i - a, al - le - lu - i - a!

M1 *mp* *p* *pp*
Al - le - lu - i - a, al - le - lu - i - a!

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

T1 *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*
- i - a! Al - - - le - lu - ia!

C2 *mp* *rallentando* *p* *pp*
Al - le - lu - i - a, al - le - lu - i - a!

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

T2 *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*
- i - a! Al - - - le - lu - ia!

B2 *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*
- i - a! Al - - - le - lu - ia!

A3 *mf* *mp* *rallentando* *p* *pp*
- i - a! Al - le - lu - i - a, al - le - lu - i - a!

T3 *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*
- i - a! Al - - - le - lu - ia!

Bt3 *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*
- i - a! Al - - - le - lu - ia!

B3 *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*
- i - a! Al - - - le - lu - ia!