

canitcum de
tenebris ad lucem
for multiple soprano voices

2020

Ryan J Williams
(ASCAP)



RYAN WILLIAMS
MUSIC

canitcum de tenebris ad lucem

for multiple soprano voices

Duration: ca. 4'00"

Performance notes

This work is intended to be performed much like Terry Riley's *In C*, in which the performers are given general time durations, but are free to make choices within those guidelines. The work is initially written to be performed as a "virtual choir," but this can also work easily as a live ensemble piece, using a conductor or one of the performers to offer cues for changes. When these cues are given, performers should finish the musical phrase they intend and move to the next phrase within about 5 to 10 seconds.

For each given phrase, repeat the material with absolute freedom, following the directions provided above each figure. Durations and rhythms are entirely at the prerogative of each individual performer. Repeat each figure as many times as fits within the given duration, making any changes desired for each subsequent repetition. Allow a brief space between each initiation. The order in which the pitches are given is always from lowest to highest; this is not indicative of the order of performance or contour of the line to be performed.

The vowel shapes given in the score (using the International Phonetic Alphabet symbols) should be sung simply as open vowels, not necessarily a part of a word and should not be sung using any consonant to articulate or enunciate the start of the pitch. A brief pronunciation guide is included below. Note the work is in three sections: in the first section, allow the vowel to fall further to the back of the mouth. In the middle section, more to the middle, and the final section should be the most forward and brightest sounds.

Pronunciation Guide

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3
ɔ - aw - "b <u>ou</u> ght"	ɑ - ah - "f <u>a</u> ther"	ɪ - eh - "b <u>i</u> t"
o - oh - "b <u>oa</u> t"	ʌ - uh - " <u>u</u> p"	i - ee - "b <u>ee</u> t"
ʊ - oo - "b <u>oo</u> k"	ə - [schwa] - " <u>a</u> ware"	æ - a - "b <u>a</u> t"
u - oo - "b <u>oo</u> t"	ɜ - ûr - "h <u>ur</u> t"	a - ah - "B <u>ah</u> st <u>ah</u> n"

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Mournful; Largo

One pitch at a time ca. 20-25 sec. | One pitch at a time ca. 20-25 sec.

pp | *pp*

Soprano

o _____ | o _____

Two pitches, rising, slurred. Crescendo the second. ca. 20-25 sec. | Two pitches, descending, slurred. Constant dim. ca. 20-25 sec. ~1'30"

pp | *mp* | *pp*

u _____ | u _____

Yearning; Quicker

Three pitches in any order, slurred, quickly ca. 10-15 sec. | Any three pitches, in any order, separated ca. 15-20 sec.

ppp | *p* | *mf*

a _____ | A _____

Any two pitches, the second always higher than the first both short with separation ca. 15-20 sec. | Any two pitches, short and separated. Express the opposite contour on each subsequent phrase (if rising first, then descending, or vice versa) ca. 10-15 sec. ~1'00"

mf | *f* | *p*

ə _____ | 3 _____

With Reverence and Relief; Maestoso

Any three pitches, always rising. Slurred. ca. 20-25 sec. | Any two pitches; always return to the first after the second. Slurred. ca. 20-25 sec.

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

I _____ | i _____

Any two or three notes, always descending. Short, with separation, moving quickly ca. 20-25 sec. | Any two notes at a time, the second always higher than the first. The first note short and the second much longer. Slurred. ca. 20-25 sec. ~1'30"

mp | *f* | *mf* | *ff*

æ _____ | a _____