

Raffaele De Giacometti

O magnum mysterium
for SAATB choir

2021

COMPOSER'S NOTE

When approaching the composition of this piece, I identified three different images corresponding to the respective parts into which the text is divided. The introduction (*O magnum mysterium*) evokes the contemplation of Jesus' birth. This is achieved through gentle and subtle harmonies, yet mysterious and unusual ones at the same time, which are alternated with continuous expressive rests. The figure of the Virgin, imagined in her dual essence as human and divine, is rendered through the use of symmetrical harmonies (*Beata Virgo*) and represented in her majesty as the bearer of the Divine Light (*cujus viscera meruerunt*). Finally, the joy is symbolised by a dance on the word *Alleluia*, where the harmonies become more and more brilliant. The homogeneity of the musical material and its permutations give unity to the piece which, only apparently, seems to match heterogeneous musical sections. The general image that I wanted to convey is not intended to be purely religious, rather a symbolic one: the soft light that becomes more and more intense until the full enlightenment of the human conscience, which finds its essence in the simplicity of a dance.

O magnum mysterium

for SAATB choir

Music by RAFFAELE DE GIACOMETTI
Duration: 4' 45"

Etereo ed espressivo ♩ = 62

Soprano
Alto 1
Alto 2
Tenor
Bass

pp *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

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

moving a bit forward

S
A1
A2
T
B

pp *f semplice* *pp* *f semplice* *pp* *f semplice* *pp* *f semplice*

um, my - ste - ri - um, et ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra -

2 13 **rit.** **a tempo**

S *mp* men - tum, ut a - ni - ma - li - a *p* vi - de - rent

A1 *mp* men - tum, ut a - ni - ma - li - a *pp leggero* vi - de - rent Do -

A2 *mp* men - tum, ut a - ni - ma - li - a *p* vi - de - rent

T *mp* men - tum, ut a - ni - ma - li - a *p* vi - de - rent

B *mp* men - tum, ut a - ni - ma - li - a *pp leggero* vi - de - rent Do -

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S *p* Do-mi-num na - tum, ja - cen - tem

A1 *mp* - mi-num na - tum, *p* ja - cen - tem, ja - cen - tem

A2 *mp* Do-mi-num na - tum, *p* ja - cen - tem, ja - cen - tem

T *mp* Do-mi-num na - tum, *p* ja - cen - tem, ja - cen - tem

B *mp* - mi-num na - tum, *p* ja - cen - tem, ja - cen - tem

26 **rit.** **Meditativo, etereo** ♩ = 56

S *pp* in præ - se - pi - o: *pp dolcissimo* Be - a - ta Vir - go,

A1 *pp* in præ - se - pi - o: *pp dolcissimo* Be - a - - - ta,

A2 *pp* in præ - se - pi - o: *pp dolcissimo* Be - a - ta Vir - go,

T *pp* in præ - se - pi - o: *pp dolcissimo* Be - a - ta,

B *pp* in præ - se - pi - o: *pp dolcissimo* Be - a - ta,