

Raffaele De Giacometti

O magnum mysterium
for SSSAA choir
(originally written 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 SSSAA choir
(originally written for SAATB choir)

Music by RAFFAELE DE GIACOMETTI
Duration: 4' 45"

Etereo ed espressivo ♩ = 62

Musical score for Soprano and Alto parts. The score is written for Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Soprano 3, Alto 1, and Alto 2. The music is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "O ma - gnum, o ma - gnum, o ma - gnum my - ste - ri -". The dynamics are marked *pp* (pianissimo) and *p* (piano). There are fermatas over the first two notes of each phrase. A dashed line indicates a slur over the second phrase.

moving a bit forward

Musical score for Soprano and Alto parts. The score is written for Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Soprano 3 (S3), Alto 1 (A1), and Alto 2 (A2). The music is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "um, my - ste - ri - um, et ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra -". The dynamics are marked *pp* (pianissimo) and *f semplice* (forte semplice). There are fermatas over the first two notes of each phrase. A dashed line indicates a slur over the second phrase.

NB: The piece can also be performed a minor second up compared to the written pitches.

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

13

S1 *mp* men - tum, ut a - ni - ma - li - a *p* vi - de - rent

S2 *mp* men - tum, ut a - ni - ma - li - a *pp leggero* vi - de - rent Do -

S3 *mp* men - tum, ut a - ni - ma - li - a *p* vi - de - rent

A1 *mp* men - tum, ut a - ni - ma - li - a *p* vi - de - rent

A2 *mp* men - tum, ut a - ni - ma - li - a *pp leggero* vi - de - rent Do -

20

S1 *p* Do-mi-num na - tum, ja - cen - tem

S2 *mp* - mi-num na - tum, ja - cen - tem, *p* ja - cen - tem

S3 *mp* Do-mi-num na - tum, ja - cen - tem, *p* ja - cen - tem

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

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

rit. **Meditativo, etereo** ♩ = 56

26

S1 *pp* in prae - se - pi - o: *pp dolcissimo* Be - a - ta Vir - go, _____

S2 *pp* in prae - se - pi - o: *pp dolcissimo* Be - a - - - - ta, _____

S3 *pp* in prae - se - pi - o: *pp dolcissimo* Be - a - ta, _____

A1 *pp* in prae - se - pi - o: *pp dolcissimo* Be - a - ta Vir - go, _____

A2 *pp* in prae - se - pi - o: *pp dolcissimo* Be - a - ta, _____