

Commissioned by William G. Premin
for
The Birmingham Musicale Choral Ensemble
Judith A. Premin, Director

The Mystic Trumpeter

Tone Poem for SATB Chorus, Trumpet and Organ

text by **Walt Whitman**
from *Leaves of Grass* (1855)

music by **Michael Pratt**

Part One:

1. Wild Trumpeter, Strange Musician
2. Oceans Musical, Chaotically Surging
3. The Walks of Paradise
4. Old Pagents, Feudal World

Part Two:

5. The Sustenance and the Pang
6. Conjure Wars Alarums
7. The Measureless Shame
8. A Perfect World, All Joy!

Also available for:

SATB Chorus, Trumpet and Piano
SATB Chorus, Trumpet and String Orchestra
SSAA Chorus, Trumpet and Piano
SSAA Chorus, Trumpet and Organ
SSAA Chorus, Trumpet and String Orchestra
TTBB Chorus, Trumpet and Piano
TTBB Chorus, Trumpet and Organ
TTBB Chorus, Trumpet and String Orchestra

The Mystic Trumpeter

from *Leaves of Grass* (1855)
by Walt Whitman

1

HARK, some wild trumpeter, some strange musician,
Hovering unseen in air, vibrates capricious tunes to-night.
I hear thee trumpeter, listening alert I catch thy notes,
Now pouring, whirling like a tempest round me,
Now low, subdued, now in the distance lost.

2

Come nearer bodiless one, haply in thee resounds
Some dead composer, haply thy pensive life
Was fill'd with aspirations high, uniform'd ideals,
Waves, oceans musical, chaotically surging,
That now ecstatic ghost, close to me bending, thy cornet echoing,
pealing,
Gives out to no one's ears but mine, but freely gives to mine,
That I may thee translate.

3

Blow trumpeter free and clear, I follow thee,
While at thy liquid prelude, glad, serene,
The fretting world, the streets, the noisy hours of day withdraw,
A holy calm descends like dew upon me,
I walk in cool refreshing night the walks of Paradise,
I scent the grass, the moist air and the roses;
Thy song expands my numb'd imbodded spirit, thou freest, launchest
me,
Floating and basking upon heaven's lake.

4

Blow again trumpeter! and for my sensuous eyes,
Bring the old pageants, show the feudal world.
What charm thy music works! thou makest pass before me,
Ladies and cavaliers long dead, barons are in their castle halls,
the troubadours are singing,
Arm'd knights go forth to redress wrongs, some in quest of the holy
Grael;
I see the tournament, I see the contestants incased in heavy armor
seated on stately champing horses,
I hear the shouts, the sounds of blows and smiting steel;
I see the Crusaders' tumultuous armies - hark, how the cymbals clang,
Lo, where the monks walk in advance, bearing the cross on high.

5

Blow again trumpeter! and for thy theme,
Take now the enclosing theme of all, the solvent and the setting,
Love, that is pulse of all, the sustenance and the pang,
The heart of man and woman all for love,
No other theme but love - knitting, enclosing, all-diffusing love.
O how the immortal phantoms crowd around me!
I see the vast alembic ever working, I see and know the flames that
heat the world,
The glow, the blush, the beating hearts of lovers,
So blissful happy some, and some so silent, dark, and nigh to death;
Love, that is all the earth to lovers - love, that mocks time and
space,
Love, that is day and night - love, that is sun and moon and stars,
Love, that is crimson, sumptuous, sick with perfume,
No other words but words of love, no other thought but love.

6

Blow again trumpeter - conjure war's alarums.
Swift to thy spell a shuddering hum like distant thunder rolls,
Lo, where the arm'd men hasten - lo, mid the clouds of dust the glint
of bayonets,
I see the grime-faced cannoneers, I mark the rosy flash amid the
smoke, I hear the cracking of the guns;
Nor war alone - thy fearful music-song, wild player, brings every
sight of fear,
The deeds of ruthless brigands, rapine, murder-I hear the cries for
help!
I see ships foundering at sea, I behold on deck and below deck the
terrible tableaus.

7

O trumpeter, methinks I am myself the instrument thou playest,
Thou melt'st my heart, my brain - thou movest, drawest, changest
them at will;
And now thy sullen notes send darkness through me,
Thou takest away all cheering light, all hope,
I see the enslaved, the overthrown, the hurt, the opprest of the
whole earth,
I feel the measureless shame and humiliation of my race, it becomes
all mine,
Mine too the revenges of humanity, the wrongs of ages, baffled feuds
and hatreds,
Utter defeat upon me weighs - all lost - the foe victorious,
(Yet 'mid the ruins Pride colossal stands unshaken to the last,
Endurance, resolution to the last.)

8

Now trumpeter for thy close,
Vouchsafe a higher strain than any yet,
Sing to my soul, renew its languishing faith and hope,
Rouse up my slow belief, give me some vision of the future,
Give me for once its prophecy and joy.
O glad, exulting, culminating song!
A vigor more than earth's is in thy notes,
Marches of victory - man disenthral'd - the conqueror at last,
Hymns to the universal God from universal man - all joy!
A reborn race appears - a perfect world, all joy!
Women and men in wisdom innocence and health - all joy!
Riotous laughing bacchanals fill'd with joy!
War, sorrow, suffering gone-the rank earth purged - nothing but joy
left!
The ocean fill'd with joy - the atmosphere all joy!
Joy! joy! in freedom, worship, love! joy in the ecstasy of life!
Enough to merely be! enough to breathe!
Joy! joy! all over joy!

Duration: 32:00

The Mystic Trumpeter

text by Walt Whitman
from *Leaves of Grass* (1855)

Part One

music by Michael Pratt, ASCAP

1. Wild Trumpeter, Strange Musician

The musical score is arranged for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, Trumpet, Organ, and a string quartet (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass). The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are mostly silent, indicated by rests. The Trumpet part begins with the instruction "Mysterioso legato lontano" and a tempo marking of "♩ = 48". The organ part provides harmonic support. The string quartet (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) enters at measure 7. The score is divided into two systems, each containing six staves. The first system covers measures 1 through 6, and the second system covers measures 7 through 12. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature changes from 5/4 to 6/4, 2/4, 7/4, 4/4, and 3/4 throughout the piece.

The Mystic Trumpeter

4

1

S

A

T

B

Tpt.

Org.

Moderato legato lontano ♩. = 60 (if necessary, vamp these four measures until trumpet is onstage)

p

Principal 8'

S

A

T

B

Tpt.

Org.

The Mystic Trumpeter

2

The musical score is divided into two systems, each containing vocal parts, a trumpet part, and an organ part.

System 1 (Measures 16-17):

- Vocal Parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass):** All parts are silent, indicated by a horizontal line with a fermata.
- Trumpet (Tpt.):** Measure 16 is marked "(on stage)". The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5. Measure 17 continues with D5, E5, F5, G5.
- Organ (Org.):** The right hand plays a continuous eighth-note accompaniment starting on G4. The left hand plays sustained chords: G2-B2 (m. 16), G2-B2-D3 (m. 17), and G2-B2-D3 (m. 18).

System 2 (Measures 18-19):

- Vocal Parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass):** All parts are silent, indicated by a horizontal line with a fermata.
- Trumpet (Tpt.):** Measure 18 starts with a whole rest, followed by quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5. Measure 19 continues with D5, E5, F5, G5.
- Organ (Org.):** The right hand continues the eighth-note accompaniment. The left hand plays sustained chords: G2-B2 (m. 18), G2-B2-D3 (m. 19), and G2-B2-D3 (m. 20).

The Mystic Trumpeter

3

6

S
20 *mf* Hark, *mf* some wi - ld trump - e - ter, *mf* some
legato 5

A
20 *mf* Hark, *mf* some Hark, *mf* some

T
20 *mf* Hark, *mf* some wi - ld trump - e - ter, *mf* some
legato 5

B
20 Hark, Hark,

Tpt.
20

Org.
20 *mf*

S
22 4 strange mu - si - cian, *mf* hov - er - ing

A
22 Hark, hov - er - ing hov - er - ing

T
22 4 strange mu - si - cian, *mf* hov - er - ing

B
22 Hark, hov - er - ing *tr* hov - er - ing
p

Tpt.
22

Org.
22

22

The Mystic Trumpeter

4

7

S
un - seen in air, vi - brates ca - pri - cious

A
un - seen in air, vi - brates ca - pri - cious

T
un - seen in air, vi - brates ca - pri - cious

B
un - seen in air, vi - brates ca - pri - cious

Tpt.
un - seen in air, vi - brates ca - pri - cious

Org.
un - seen in air, vi - brates ca - pri - cious

S
tunes to - night.

A
tunes to - night.

T
tunes to - night.

B
tunes to - night.

Tpt.
tunes to - night.

Org.
tunes to - night.

The Mystic Trumpeter

8

5

f marcato

S
I hear thee trump - e - ter,

A
f marcato
I hear thee trump - e - ter,

T
f marcato
I hear thee trump - e - ter,

B
f marcato
I hear thee trump - e - ter,

Tpt.
f
I hear thee trump - e - ter,

Org.
f

S
30 4
list - en - ing a - lert I catch thy notes,

A
30 4
list - en - ing a - lert I catch thy notes,

T
30 4
list - en - ing a - lert I catch thy notes,

B
30 4
list - en - ing a - lert I catch thy notes,

Tpt.
30
list - en - ing a - lert I catch thy notes,

Org.
30

The Mystic Trumpeter

6

S
now pour - ing, whirl - ing whirl -

A
now pour - ing, whirl - ing whirl - ing

T
now pour - ing, whirl - ing whirl - ing

B
now pour - ing, whirl - ing whirl - ing whirl -

Tpt.
ff

Org.
ff
Pedal 16'

S
ing whirl - ing whirl - ing like a tem - pest round me,

A
whirl - ing whirl - ing like a tem - pest round me,

T
whirl - ing whirl - ing whirl - ing like a tem - pest round me,

B
ing whirl - ing whirl - ing like a tem - pest round me,

Tpt.

Org.

