

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

The Mystic Trumpeter

Tone Poem for SSAA Chorus, Trumpet and String Orchestra

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 Organ
SATB Chorus, Trumpet and String Orchestra
SSAA Chorus, Trumpet and Piano
SSAA Chorus, Trumpet and Organ
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, unform'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 imbodied 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
Graal;
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 tableaux.

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 oppress 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 disenfranch'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!

Duration: 32:00

The Mystic Trumpeter

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

Part One
1. Wild Trumpeter, Strange Musician

music by Michael Pratt, ASCAP

Musical score for the first system of 'The Mystic Trumpeter'. The score includes parts for Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto 1, Alto 2, Trumpet, Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass. The Trumpet part is marked 'Mysterioso legato lontano' with a tempo of $\bullet = 48$ and 'mf (offstage)'. The other instruments are mostly silent in this section.

Musical score for the second system of 'The Mystic Trumpeter'. This system includes parts for Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto 1 (A1), Alto 2 (A2), Trumpet (Tpt.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Cello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The Trumpet part is marked 'Moderato legato lontano' with a tempo of $\bullet = 60$ and includes the instruction '(if necessary, vamp these four measures until trumpet is onstage)'. The Violin I part is marked 'p' and features a rhythmic pattern. The Viola, Cello, and Double Bass parts are also marked 'p' and feature sustained notes.

2

14

S1

S2

A1

A2

Tpt.

(on stage)

mp

Vln. I

mp

Vln. II

mp

Vla.

mp

Vc.

mp

D.B.

mp

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 14 through 17. It features staves for Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto 1 (A1), Alto 2 (A2), Trumpet (Tpt.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The vocal parts (S1, S2, A1, A2) are mostly silent, with a small '2' in a box above the S1 staff at measure 14. The Tpt. part begins at measure 15 with the instruction '(on stage)' and plays a melodic line. The instrumental parts (Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., D.B.) are active throughout, with various dynamics and articulations. A '2' in a box is also present above the Vln. I staff at measure 14.

3

18

S1

mf

mf

S2

Hark, *mf* some *mf*

A1

Hark, *mf* some

A2

Hark, *mf*

Tpt.

mf

Vln. I

mf

Vln. II

mf

Vla.

mf

Vc.

mf

D.B.

mf

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 18 through 21. It features the same instrumental staves as the previous block. The vocal parts (S1, S2, A1, A2) enter at measure 18 with the lyrics 'Hark, some' and 'Hark, some'. The dynamics are marked as *mf*. The instrumental parts continue with various textures and dynamics. A '3' in a box is present above the S1 staff at measure 18.

21 *legato* 5 4

S1 wi - ld trump - e - ter, some strange mu - si - cian, hov - er - ing

S2 wi - ld trump - e - ter, some strange mu - si - cian, hov - er - ing

A1 *mf* Hark, *mf* Hark,

A2 *mf* Hark, *mf* Hark,

Tpt.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

23 4

S1 *mp* insistent *mf* un - seen in air, vi - brates ca - pri - cious tunes to - night.

S2 *mp* insistent *mf* un - seen in air, vi - brates ca - pri - cious tunes to - night.

A1 *mp* insistent *mf* hov - er - ing hov - er - ing un - seen in air, vi - brates ca - pri - cious tunes to - night.

A2 *mp* insistent *mf* hov - er - ing hov - er - ing un - seen in air, vi - brates ca - pri - cious tunes to - night.

Tpt. *p* *tr* *mp* *mf*

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

D.B. *mp*

5 *f marcato*

S1 I hear thee trump - e - ter, list - en - ing a - lert I catch thy

S2 I hear thee trump - e - ter, list - en - ing a - lert I catch thy

A1 I hear thee trump - e - ter, list - en - ing a - lert I catch thy

A2 I hear thee trump - e - ter, list - en - ing a - lert I catch thy

Tpt. *f*

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

D.B. *f*

6 *ff*

S1 notes, now pour - ing, whirl - ing whirl - ing

S2 notes, now pour - ing, whirl - ing whirl - ing

A1 notes, now pour - ing, whirl - ing whirl - ing

A2 notes, now pour - ing, whirl - ing whirl - ing

Tpt. *ff*

Vln. I *ff*

Vln. II *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

D.B. *ff*

34 7 *mp* subito

S1 ing whirl - ing whirl - ing like a tem - pest round me, now low,

S2 whirl - ing whirl - ing like a tem - pest round me, now low,

A1 whirl - ing whirl - ing whirl - ing like a tem - pest round me, now low,

A2 ing whirl - ing whirl - ing like a tem - pest round me, now low,

Tpt. *mp* subito

Vln. I *mp* subito

Vln. II *mp* subito

Vla. *mp* subito

Vc. *mp* subito

D.B. *mp* subito

37 8 *mp*

S1 *legato*
sub - dued, now in the dis - tance lost.

S2 *legato*
sub - dued, now in the dis - tance lost.

A1 *legato*
sub - dued, now in the dis - tance lost.

A2 *legato*
sub - dued, now in the dis - tance lost.

Tpt. *mp*

Vln. I *pp*

Vln. II *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

D.B. *pp*

9

41

S1

S2

A1

A2

Tpt.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

p

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

10

45

S1

S2

A1

A2

Tpt.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

ritard

morendo

mp

piu mosso

ritard

morendo

ritard

morendo

ritard

morendo

ritard

morendo

51

S1

S2

A1

A2

Tpt.

movendo

accelerando

mf

f

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, titled 'The Mystic Trumpeter', contains measures 51 through 58. The score is arranged for a trumpet and a full orchestra. The trumpet part (Tpt.) is the central focus, starting at measure 51 with a melodic line in G major. It features dynamic markings of mezzo-forte (*mf*) and fortissimo (*f*), along with performance directions 'movendo' and 'accelerando'. The orchestral parts (S1, S2, A1, A2, Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., D.B.) are mostly silent, indicated by rests, throughout this section. The score is written in a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature, with a 3/2 time signature change occurring between measures 51 and 52.

The Mystic Trumpeter

2. Oceans Musical, Chaotically Surging

Allegro ♩ = 120
Insistent but not marcato

S1 *p* come come

S2 *p* come come come come come

A1 *p* come come come come come come come come come

A2 *p* come come come come come come come come come

Tpt.

Vln. I *p*

Vln. II *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *f* *p subito*

D.B.

11

S1 come come come come come come come come come come come come come

S2 come come come come come come come come come come come come come

A1 come come come come come come come come come come come come come

A2 *mp* come come come come come come come come come near - er near - er near - er

Tpt.

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

D.B.