



Words: Latin Liturgy,
Christmas Day Matins

O magnum mysterium

(for SATB choir *a cappella*)

Douglas Brooks-Davies

Slowly $\text{♩} = 50$

Soprano (S): 4/4 time signature. Rests in first three measures, then a half note G4 with *mp* dynamic.

Alto (A): 4/4 time signature. *pp* dynamic. Notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). Lyrics: O,----- O,----- O ma----- gnum-----

Tenor (T): 4/4 time signature. *pp* dynamic. Notes: G3 (half), A3 (half). Lyrics: O----- ma----- gnum,----- O,-----

Bass (B): 4/4 time signature. Rests in first three measures, then a half note G2 with *pp* dynamic. Lyrics: O----- ma-----

Keyboard: 4/4 time signature. *pp* (rehearsal only) dynamic. Notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). Lyrics: O,----- O,----- *mp*

Alto (A): *mp* dynamic. Notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). Lyrics: ma----- gnum----- my--ste-- ri--- um et----- ad----- mi---

Tenor (T): *mp* dynamic. Notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). Lyrics: my----- ste--- ri-- um--- et ad-- mi----- ra----- bi-----

Bass (B): *pp* dynamic. Notes: G3 (half), A3 (half). Lyrics: O--- ma---- gnum, ma---- gnum my---- ste--- ri--- um

Keyboard: *pp* dynamic. Notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). Lyrics: gnum,----- O----- ma----- gnum-----

p *pp* *mp* 3
 O, O, O, O

p *pp* *pp* *mp*
 O ma- gnum my- ste- ri-um et ad- mi-

p *pp*
 O ma- gnum my- ste- ri- um

3 *p* *pp*
 se- pi- o. O ma- gnum my- ste- ri- um, O

p *pp* *mp*
 ma- gnum my- ste- ri- um et ad- mi- ra- bi- le

mp
 ra- bi- le, et ad- mi- ra- bi- le

p
 O ma- gnum, ma- gnum et ad- mi- ra- bi-

ma- gnum, O ma- gnum



4

p sa--- cra--- men--- tum.--- *mf* O be-a-- ta Vir--- go,

p sa--- cra--- men--- tum. *mf* O be-a-- ta Vir--- go,

p le sa-cra-men----- tum.----- *mf* O be-a-- ta Vir--- go,

p et ad-mi-ra-- bi- le sa-cra-- men-tum. *mf* O be-a-- ta Vir--- go,

f O be-a- ta Vir--- go, *mp* Vir--- go,---

f O be-a- ta Vir--- go, *mp* cu--- jus--- vi--- sce-ra me-ru- e-- runt

f O be-a- ta Vir--- go, *mp* cu--- jus--- vi-- sce- ra me-ru- e-- runt

f O be-a- ta Vir--- go, *mp* Vir--- go,--- cu--- jus vi- sce-ra me--- ru-e-- runt



mp cresc. *ff* 5

cu-jus vi-sce-ra me--ru---- e--runt por-ta-re Do-mi-num Je-sum Chri-stum,

cresc. *ff*

por-ta-re Je-- sum Chri----- stum,----- Je--sum Chri-stum,

cresc. *ff*

por-ta-re Je-- sum Chri----- stum, Je---- sum Chri-stum, Je--

cresc. *ff*

por-ta-re Je-- sum Chri--- stum, Je----- sum Chri--stum, Je-- sum

mp cresc. *ff*

dim. *mp* *mp*

Je-- sum Chri-- stum. O

dim. *mp* *pp*

Je--sum, Je--sum Chri--stum. O,----- O,----- ma--- gnum

dim. *mp* *pp*

sum, Je-- sum Chri-stum. O----- ma----- gnum,-----

dim. *mp* *pp*

Chri-stum, Chri-- stum. O----- ma----- gnum,-----

dim. *mp* *pp* *mp*



ma----- gnum---- my-- ste-- ri--- um et---- ad----- mi--
 my----- ste---ri-- um et ad-- mi--- ra----- bi--
 O ma--- gnum, ma--- gnum my--- ste--- ri-- um
 O----- ma----- gnum my--- ste--- ri-- um,

ra----- bi--- le sa--- cra--- men--- tum,
 le,----- et ad-- mi--ra-- bi-- le----- sa-- cra-- men-tum,
 et ad----- mi-- ra-bi-- le sa- cra-- men---- tum,----- O----- ma-gnum
 my----- ste--- ri-- um et ad-mi-- ra-- bi- le sa----- cra-----

The musical score consists of five systems. The first four systems are vocal lines (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass) with lyrics: 'sa-- cra-- men--- tum.', 'sa-- cra-- men--- tum.', 'my----- ste-- ri--- um.', and 'men----- tum.' respectively. The fifth system is the piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *ppp* (pianissimo). The score is in G major and 8/8 time.

NOTE: notes in square brackets should be omitted if it is not possible to split the voice part in question.

If the Latin text be thought too remote for modern use, the composer offers his own free translation, to which the music may be easily adapted:

O great and wondrous, sacred mystery,
That beasts might the infant Jesus see
Born, where they fed, in a stable.

O Virgin blest, whose mortal flesh was thought
Worthy to bear the Christ, whom we sought
To feed us at His table.

Copyright © Douglas Brooks-Davies 2004. Work may be freely performed, etc., but please advise the composer of any performances via e-mail (see Contributors' Pages at the CPDL website). Thank you.