

Kyrie

SATB solo voices

Ian Percy

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2017

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As the title suggests, this is a setting of a short Latin text taken from the Catholic Mass composed for four solo voices (SATB). The text contains three short lines (with one repeated) and only three words; it reads as a simple vertical palindrome:

Kyrie

Kyrie eleison;
Christe eleison;
Kyrie eleison

This score evolved from a pedagogical study conceived with the hope of demonstrating how one could follow conventions of plainchant within tonal stasis (without accidentals or modulations), but maintain internal motion through the linear interaction of modality (instead of species counterpoint) and hopefully produce contemporary music that sounds timeless instead of being overtly modernistic or retrospective.

The opening plainchant is written in Phrygian mode and the subtle presence of a grace note contemporises the rhythmic (and modal) character of the phrase. The compound-interval in the bass for the first chorus is another contemporising influence, along with the use of fourth-based harmony and the linear use of whole-tones. One was not aiming to 'reinvent the world' here! Subtle 'smudges' (for this piece at least) ...

The movement was arranged for string quartet in May 2020.

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[An Opening Prayer]

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♩ = 50 Eternal plea for mercy rit. . .

A a tempo rit. . .

♩ = 40

B a tempo

mp molto legato rubato
Ky-ri-e e-lei son Chri-ste e-lei son

mp molto legato rubato
Ky-ri-e e-lei son Chri-ste e-lei son

mp *p* *mp* molto legato rubato
Chri-ste e-lei son Ky-ri-e e-lei son Chri-ste e-lei son

mp molto rubato *ritenuto* *p* molto rubato ostinato chant
Ky-ri-e e-lei son Chri-ste e-lei son Ky-ri-e e-lei son Chri-ste e-lei son Ky-ri-e e-lei son Chri-ste e-lei son Chri-ste e-lei son Chri-ste e-lei son

rit.

C ♩ = 40

D ♩ = 50 a tempo

rit.

E a tempo rit.

13
Ky-ri-e e-lei son lei son son lei son

Ky-ri-e e-lei son lei son lei son

Ky-ri-e e-lei son lei son lei son

mp molto espress. rubato *ritenuto*
Ky-ri-e e-lei son Chri-ste e-lei son Ky-ri-e e-lei son

[♩ = 40]

F a tempo

rit.

G ♩ = 40 ... Why? ...

mp molto legato rubato

mp molto legato rubato

mp *p* *mp molto legato rubato* *p* *pp* *p*

mp *p* *mp molto legato rubato* *p* *pp* *p*

p *molto rubato ostinato chant* *pp* *p*

Ky-ri - e e - lei son Chri - ste e - lei son Ky-ri - e e - lei son lei son son

Ky-ri - e e - lei son Chri - ste e - lei son Ky-ri - e e - lei son lei - son

Chri-ste e - lei son Ky-ri - e e - lei son ste e - lei - son Chri - ste e - lei son ste e - lei - son Ky-ri - e e - lei son lei - son

Chri-ste e - lei son Ky-ri - e e - lei - son Chri - ste e - lei - son Chri - ste e - lei - son Chri - ste e - lei - son Ky-ri - e e - lei - son Chri - ste e - lei - son



H ... gently fading away ...

I ... An eternal plea for mercy ...

mp *solo* *p* *pp* *mp* *p* *pp* *ppp*

pp *p* *pp* *ppp*

pp *p* *pp* *ppp*

pp *p* *pp* *ppp*

e - lei - son e - lei son e - lei - son e - lei - son lei - son e - lei - son e - lei - son son son

lei son e - - lei - - son e - - - lei - - - son son

lei son e - - lei - - son e - - - lei - - - son son

lei son e - - lei - - son e - - - lei - - - son son

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