

N. A. Esmen

Hymnus ad Deum Ignotum

Hymn to a God Unknown

NE 10

(1972)

introduction and notes:

1) This was written to be used with an analog electronic sound generator to investigate the question of the influence of music on meaning.

Is this a sacred hymn?

Does it sound like one?

Could it be a piece for a cabaret?

2) It was intended for a cathedral acoustics - specifically for the Heinz Chapel of the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Pennsylvania USA

The pronunciation guide

Letter used	English pronunciation	German Pronunciation
a	fAther	Vater
ae	bEst	besser
i	bIt	bitte
ee	bEEr	bier
oe	hEr	böse
ue	bOOt (exagerated Liverpool)	über
o	bOAt	verboten
u	whO	Uhu
w	sIck	Essig
wh	beet	Schwer
y	Sky	ein

Notes:

1) There are no consonants; but, they can be added at the discretion of the choir master, so long as they would not ascribe meaning to the text.

2) British given and regional, many American, Australian, regional German vowel sounds differ significantly; but their use without restriction is recommended.

Canticum Sacrum

N. A. Esmen

Largo ♩ = 48

Soprano *f* *p*

a - ae-ee - ue ae-ee-ue ue-ee-ae-a-oe

Mezzo-soprano *f*

ae-oe-ee - u

Contralto *f*

ee-ae-ee - a-oe-ue-ee-ue-ae-ee-ue

Tenor *f* *mp*

o - ae-ee - ue ue - ee-ae-a-oe-ue - o - u

Baritone *f*

u - ae-ee - ue

Bass *f*

oe-ue - u

3

S. *f*
ue - o - u ue - a - oe-ee - o u - ae

M-S. *f*
ue - a - o - ee-ue - a - oe o - ee o - u - ae

C. *f*
ue - a - o - ee-ue - a - oe o - ee - u

T. *f*
ee -ae-ue-

Bar. *mp*
ue-ee-ae - a - oe-ue - o - u

B. *f*
ae - i - oe-ue - u - o a - i - ue u

5

S. *p*
oe-a-ue-a-u o u - ue - ee - o

M-S. *p*
oe - a u ue ee - o

C. *p*
a o u - ue - ee - o

T. *p*
a - u - ue - ee - o

Bar. *p*
u - ue - ee - o

B. *f*
a o a a - u - ae-oe - u

8

S. *f* oe-ee-u - ee u - ue-ee o

M-S. *f* oe-ee-u - ee u - ue-ee o

C. *f* oe-ee-u - ee u - ue-ee o

T. *f* *p subito* oe-ee-u - ee u - ue-ee o a - i-oe-u o - i-oe-u a?

Bar. *f* *p subito* oe-ee-u - ee u - ue-ee o a - i-oe-u o - i-oe-u a?

B. ee-o-u - ae ee-o a - i-ue - u oe-ee-u - ee u - ue-ee o

11 **Poco più mosso - misterioso** ♩ = 50

S. *mp* o - e - a - u o - i - a - u

M-S. *mp* o - e - a - u o - i - a - u

C. *mp* o - e - a - u o - i - a - u

T. *p* u - a - u -

Bar. *p* u - a - u - o

B. *p* u - a - u - o

14 **A tempo** ♩ = 48

S. *p* u - a - u - o a - ae - ee - ue ae -

M-S. *p* u - a - u - o ae - oe - ee - u

C. *p* u - a - u - o ee - ae - ee - a - oe - ue - ee - ue - ae -

T. 8 o o - ae - ee - ue

Bar. u - ae - ee - ue

B. oe - ue - u

17

S. ee - ue ue - ee - ae - a - oe -

M-S.

C. ee - ue

T. 8 ue - ee - ae - a - oe - ue - o - u

Bar. ee - ae - ee - a - oe - ue - ee - ue - ae - ee - ue ue - o -

B. ee - ae - ee - a - oe - ue - ee - ue - ae - ee - ue

19

S. *p* *f*
ue - o - u ue - a - oe-ee - o u - ae

M-S. *p* *f*
ue - a - o - ee-ue - a - oe o - ee o - u - ae

C. *p* *f*
ue - a - o - ee-ue - a - oe o - ee - u

T. *p* *f*
ue - a - ee -ae-ue-

Bar. *p* *f*
u ue-ee-ae - a - oe-ue - o - u

B. *p* *f*
ae - i - oe-ue - u - o a - i - ue u

21

S. *mp* *p*
oe - a - ue - a - u o a - ue - ee - o ee ee

M-S. *mp* *p*
oe - a u ue ee - o a - ue - ee - o ee ee

C. *mp* *p*
a o a - ue - ee - o ee ee

T. *mp* *p*
a - u - ue - ee - o a - ue - ee - o ee ee

Bar. *f* *mp* *p*
u - ue - ee - o a - ue - ee - o ee ee

B. *mp* *p*
a o a - ue - ee - o ee ee

24

S.

M-S.

C.

T.

Bar.

B.

27

S.

M-S.

C.

T.

Bar.

B.

30

S. u a?

M-S. u a?

C. u a

T. eh a u a

Bar. a a eh a u a

B. u a

34

S. u a

M-S. u a

C. eh a u a u a

T. eh a u a

Bar. eh a u a

B. i - oe - u o - i - oe - u a?

37

S. u a a - ue - ee - o

M-S. eh a u a a - ue - ee - o

C. eh a u a a - ue - ee - o

T. u a a - ue - ee - o i - oe - u o - i - oe - u a?

Bar. eh a u a a - ue - ee - o i - oe - u o - i - oe - u a?

B. eh a u a a - ue - ee - o i - oe - u o - i - oe - u a?

43

S. i - oe - u o - i - oe - u a? i - oe - u o - i - oe - u

M-S. i - oe - u o - i - oe - u a? i - oe - u o - i - oe - u

C. i - oe - u o - i - oe - u a? i - oe - u o - i - oe - u

T. i - oe - u o - i - oe - u

Bar. i - oe - u o - i - oe - u

B. i - oe - u o - i - oe - u

49

S. *pp* *mp* *p*

M-S. *pp* *mp* *p*

C. *pp* *mp* *p*

T. *pp* *mp* *p*

Bar. *pp* *mp* *p*

B. *pp* *mp* *p*

a? u a? ee ee а - ue - ee - o

a? u a? ee ee а - ue - ee - o

a? u a? ee ee а - ue - ee - o

a? u a? ee ee а - ue - ee - o

a? u a? ee ee а - ue - ee - o

a? u a? ee ee а - ue - ee - o