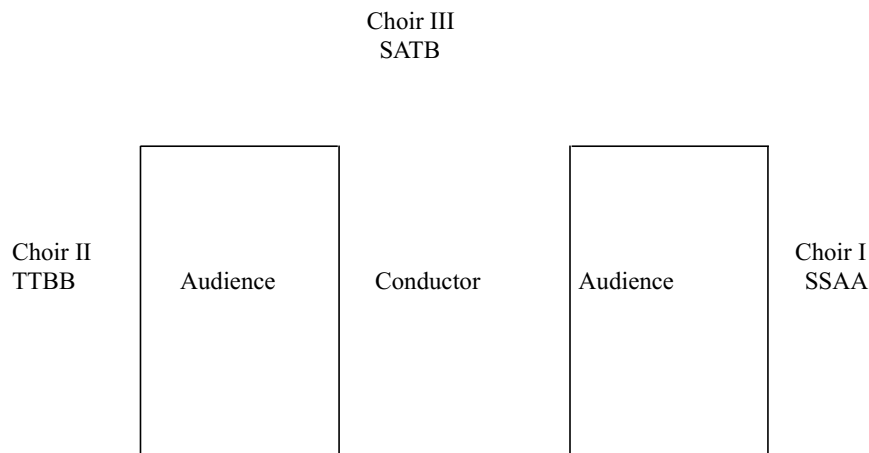


O eterne Deus, nunc tibi placeat
 O eternal God, now let it please you
 ut in amore illo ardeas ut membra illa simus
 to burn in that love that we may be those limbs
 que fecisti in eodem amore,
 that you made in the same love
 cum Filium tuum genuisti
 when you begot your Son
 in prima aurora ante omnem creaturam,
 in the primal dawn before all creation,
 et inspice necessitatem hanc que super nos cadit,
 and look upon this need that falls upon us,
 et abstrahe eam a nobis propter Filium tuum,
 and take it from us for your Son's sake,
 et perduc nos in leticiam salutis.
 and lead us into the bliss of salvation.

Hildegard of Bingen

Antiphon For God The Father was commissioned by the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in New York City. I wanted to write a spatial piece involving multiple choirs using the large reverberant space of that church. I had always wanted to set a Latin text including its English translation as part of the piece, and the multichoir format afforded this opportunity. The piece is set for soprano soloist and three choirs, each with a different voicing: a women's choir, a men's choir, and SATB choir. The soprano is Hildegard the mystic praying. Her words come down to the people in the various choirs, each choir in turn pondering her works in Latin and in English, until the end when all choirs sing together and there is enlightenment.

— Nancy Wertsch



The soprano soloist should be place higher up, as in a pulpit or balcony.

Antiphon for God the Father

Commissioned by the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, New York City, Kent Tritle, music director.
Dedicated to the memory of James Christensen.

ST. HILDEGARD OF BINGEN

NANCY WERTSCH

♩ = 48 *mp*

Soprano solo
O e - ter - ne De - us, _____ e - ter - ne

Soprano
CHOIR I
O e - ter - ne De - _____ *mp*

Alto
O e - ter - ne De us, _____ *mp*

Tenor
CHOIR II
Bass

Soprano
Alto
CHOIR III
Tenor
Bass

7

♩ = 60

De - us, _____

O e - ter - ne De - us, _____ *mp*

O e - ter - ne De - us, _____ *mp*

mf ♩ = 60

O e - ter - -

O e - ter - -

25

♩ = 48 *mp*

ut mem-bra il-la si -

please you to burn in that love

please you to burn in that love

29

mp

- mus que fe-cis-ti in e-o-dem a-mo-re,

ut mem-bra si - mus

ut mem-or il-la si - mus

34

cum Fi - li - um Tu - um gen - u - is - ti

mp cum Fi - li - um Tu - um ge - nu - i -

mp cum Fi - li - um Tu - um ge - nu - i -

mp cum Fi - li - um Tu - um ge - nu - i -

mp cum Fi - li - um Tu - um ge - nu - i -

38

$\text{♩} = 60$

in pri - ma au - tu - ra

sti

sti

sti

sti

mf $\text{♩} = 60$

mf we may be those limbs that you

we may be those limbs that you

71

tu - um et per-duc-nos in le - ti - ci - am sa - lu - tis

tu - um et per-duc-nos in le - ti - ci - am sa - lu

tu - um et et

tu - um et et

77 $\text{♩} = 60$

and take it from us for your Son's sake and lead us in - to the

and take it from us for your Son's sake and lead us in - to the

oh

82

et per - duc nos in
 oh
 oh
 oh
 oh
 oh
 oh

bliss of sal - va - tion
 bliss of sal - va - tion

et per - duc nos in le -

p
p
p
p
p
p
mp
mp
mp

86

ti - ci - am - lu - tis.
 sa - lu - tis.
 sa - lu - tis.
 sa - lu - tis.
 sa - lu - tis.
 ti - am - lu - tis.
 sa - lu - tis.
 sa - lu - tis.

piu p
piu p
piu p
piu p
piu p
p
p