ZACHARY WADSWORTH

Benedicite

"A Song of Creation"

for chorus, oboe, trumpet, and string orchestra
text from the Book of Daniel

dedicated to Timothy Shantz
and the Spiritus Chamber Choir, on their 20th Anniversary

PERUSAL SCORE

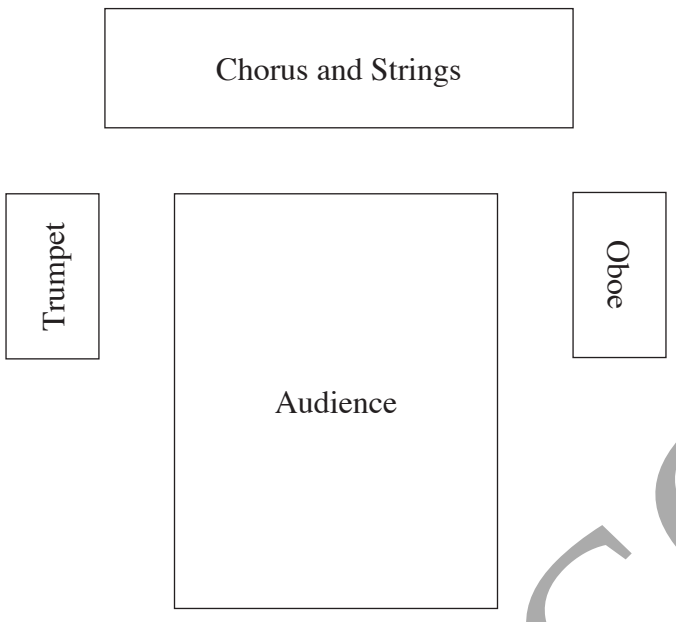
ZRW publishing ✦ zacharywadsworth.com

Score Notes

- Completed: January, 2016.
- Duration: approximately 9'30".
- Text: from the Book of Daniel (public domain).
- Commissioned by the Spiritus Chamber Choir on the occasion of their twentieth anniversary. Premiered by the Spiritus Chamber Choir, directed by Timothy Shantz.

Performance Notes

- The piece requires a minimum string complement of 2.2.2.2.1.
- The symbol "𝄐" indicates a long fermata.
- If possible, the oboe and trumpet should be placed on either side of the performers, or even on either side of the concert hall. For the work's premiere, the performers were positioned as follows:



Instrumentation

Oboe
Trumpet in C

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Contrabass

Mixed Chorus (divisi)

Program Note

One of the less-explored emotions in contemporary classical music is joy. Perhaps this is understandable; in a world of seemingly inescapable violence, lingering oppression, and diminishing interest in art, it can be hard to find reasons to "make a joyful noise."

When I was asked to compose a piece for the 20th anniversary of the Spiritus Chamber Choir, a choir in which I sang for four years, I decided to write with unapologetic joy. The Benedicite is a canticle from the Book of Daniel. It's a text that celebrates all of God's creations: light and dark, fire and ice, human and animal. This broad celebration of life seemed a perfect text to celebrate a choir and, more broadly, all people who come together to sing.

The piece opens with explosive canons in the string orchestra, and the antiphonal oboe and trumpet herald the choir's entrance. This opening refrain, which celebrates the heavens, recurs throughout the piece, contrasted with slower and more colorful sections that explore earthly creations.

PERUSAL SCORE

Zachary Wadsworth's "vivid, vital, and prismatic" music has established him as one of the leading composers of his generation, especially among those writing vocal, choral, and operatic works. With recent performances by the choir of Westminster Abbey, the Washington National Opera Chorus, Boston Metro Opera, Long Leaf Opera, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Atlanta Philharmonic Orchestra, his works have been heard in venues around the world, from Washington's Kennedy Center to Tokyo's Takinogawa Hall.

As winner of the 2011 King James Bible Trust Award, Wadsworth's anthem *Out of the South Cometh the Whirlwind* was performed at Westminster Abbey in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II. Other recent honors include a Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, three Morton Gould Young Composer Awards from ASCAP, and first-prize recognition in competitions sponsored by the American Composers Forum, the Pacific Chorale, the Boston Choral Ensemble, and the Esoterics. Wadsworth's music is widely broadcast and distributed, with recent publications by Novello, G. Schirmer, and E.C. Schirmer, and broadcasts on NPR, BBC, and CBC.

Wadsworth earned graduate degrees from Cornell University (DMA) and Yale University (MM), and is an honors graduate of the Eastman School of Music (BM). Originally from Richmond, Virginia, Wadsworth (b. 1983) has taught at Williams College, the Interlochen Center for the Arts and the University of Calgary, and he maintains an active performing life as a tenor and pianist.

TEXT

BENEDICITE, omnia opera Domini, Domino; laudate et superexaltate eum in saecula.
BENEDICITE, caeli, Domino, benedicite, angeli Domini, Domino.
BENEDICITE, aquae omnes, quae super caelos sunt, Domino, benedicat omnis virtutis Domino.
BENEDICITE, sol et luna, Domino, benedicite, stellae caeli, Domino.
BENEDICITE, omnis imber et ros, Domino, benedicite, omnes venti, Domino.
BENEDICITE, ignis et aestus, Domino, benedicite, frigus et aestus, Domino.
BENEDICITE, rores et pruina, Domino, benedicite, gelu et frigus, Domino.
BENEDICITE, glacies et nives, Domino, benedicite, noctes et dies, Domino.
BENEDICITE, lux et tenebrae, Domino, benedicite, fulgura et nubes, Domino.
BENEDICAT terra Dominum: laudet et superexaltet eum in saecula.
BENEDICITE, montes et colles, Domino, benedicite, universa germinantia in terra, Domino.
BENEDICITE, maria et flumina, Domino, benedicite, fontes, Domino.
BENEDICITE, cete, et omnia, quae moventur in aquis, Domino, benedicite, omnes volucres caeli, Domino.
BENEDICITE, omnes bestiae et pecora, Domino, benedicite, filii hominum, Domino.
BENEDICITE, Israel, Domino, laudate et superexaltate eum in saecula.
BENEDICITE, sacerdotes Domini, Domino, benedicite, servi Domini, Domino.
BENEDICITE, spiritus et animae iustorum, Domino, benedicite, sancti et humiles corde, Domino.
BENEDICITE, Anania, Azaria, Misael, Domino, laudate et superexaltate eum in saecula.
BENEDICAMUS Patrem et Filium cum Sancto Spiritu; laudemus et superexaltemus eum in saecula.
BENEDICTUS es in firmamento caeli et laudabilis et gloriosus in saecula.

AMEN.

TRANSLATION

BLESS the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all forever.
BLESS the Lord all ye heavens; bless the Lord all ye angels of the Lord.
BLESS the Lord all ye waters that are above the heavens; let all powers bless the Lord.
BLESS the Lord, ye sun and moon; stars of heaven, bless the Lord.
BLESS the Lord, every shower and dew. All ye winds, bless the Lord.
BLESS the Lord, ye fire and heat; cold and chill, bless ye the Lord.
BLESS the Lord, dews and hoar frosts; frost and cold, bless the Lord.
BLESS the Lord, ice and snow; nights and days, bless the Lord.
BLESS the Lord, light and darkness; lightning and clouds, bless the Lord.
LET the earth bless the Lord; let it praise and exalt Him above all forever.
BLESS the Lord, ye mountains and hills; everything growing from the earth, bless the Lord.
BLESS the Lord, seas and rivers; fountains, bless the Lord.
BLESS the Lord, ye whales and all that move in the waters; all you fowls of the air, bless the Lord.
BLESS the Lord, all ye beasts and cattle; sons of men, bless the Lord.
BLESS the Lord, Israel,; praise and exalt Him above all for ever.
BLESS the Lord, priests of the Lord, servants of the Lord, bless the Lord.
BLESS the Lord, spirits and souls of the just; holy men of humble heart, bless the Lord.
BLESS the Lord, Ananias, Azaria, and Misael; praise and exalt Him above all for ever.
LET us bless the Father and the Son, with the Holy Spirit; let us praise and exalt Him above all for ever.
BLESSED art Thou, Lord, in the firmament of heaven; and worthy of praise, and glorious above all for ever.

AMEN

PERUSAL SCORE

dedicated to Timothy Shantz
and to the Spiritus Chamber Choir, on the occasion of their 20th Anniversary

Benedicite

Text from the Book of Daniel

Zachary Wadsworth
(b. 1983)

Allegro gioioso ♩. = ca. 138

Violin I
Violin I
Violin II
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Contrabass

7

Vln. I
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

PERUSAL SCORE

14

Vln. I
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

20

Vln. I
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

25

Vln. I
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

PERUSAL SCORE

A

30

Ob.

Tpt.

S.

A.

T.

B.

A

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

unis.

unis.

f

Be - - - - ne - - - -

38

div.

div.

div.

div.

div.

div.

div.

Vln. I

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

- di - - - - - - ci - te, om - ni - a o - per - a

- di - - - - - - ci - te, om - ni - a o - per - a

- di - - - - - - ci - te, om - ni - a o - per -

- di - - - - - - ci - te, om - ni - a o - per -

PERUSAL SCORE

46

S. — Do - - mi - ni, Do - - - - mi - no; lau - da - te et

A. — Do - - mi - ni, Do - - - - mi - no; lau - da - te et

T. a Do - - mi - ni, Do - - - - mi - no; lau - da -

B. a Do - - mi - ni, Do - - - - mi - no; lau - da - te

Vln. I

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

54

S. sup - er - ex - al - ta - te e - um in sae - cu - la. Be - ne -

A. sup - er - ex - al - ta - te e - um in sae - cu - la. Be - ne - di - ci - te,

T. - te et sup - er - ex - al - ta - te e - um in sae - cu - la. Be-ne-di-ci - te, be - ne -

B. et sup - er - ex - al - ta - te e - um in sae - cu - la. Be - ne-di - ci - te,

Vln. I

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

REPERUSAL SCORE

62

Ob.

Tpt.

S. di - ci - te, be - ne - di - ci - te, be - ne - di - ci - te, be - ne-di - ci - te,

A. be - ne-di - ci - te, be - ne-di - ci - te, be - ne - di - ci - te, be - - ne - di - ci - te,

T. di - ci - te, be - ne-di - ci - te, be - ne - di - - ci - te,

B. be - ne - di - ci - te, be - ne - di - ci - te, be - ne - di - - ci - te,

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

68 (♩. = ♩)

Ob.

Tpt.

S. Be - - - - ne - - - - - di - - - - - - - - ci - te,

A. Be - - - - ne - - - - - di - - - - - - - - ci - te,

T. Be - - - - ne - - - - - di - - - - - - - - ci - te,

B. Be - - - - ne - - - - - di - - - - - - - - ci - te,

Vln. I unis.

Vln. II unis.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

PERUSAL SCORE

76

B

Lo stesso tempo ♩ = ca. 138

rit.

Misterioso ♩ = ca. 112

Ob.

f espress. *mf* *p*

S.

p

Be-ne-di - ci-te,

cae - li,

A.

p

Be-ne-di - ci-te,

aq - uae om - nes,

T.

p

Be-ne-di - ci-te,

B.

p

Be-ne-di - ci-te,

Lo stesso tempo ♩ = ca. 138

B

rit.

Misterioso ♩ = ca. 112

Vln. I

mf *p* *pp*

Vln. II

mf *p* *pp*

Vla.

mf *p* *pp*

Vc.

mf *p*

Cb.

mf *p*

pizz.

p

84

S.

p

be - ne - di - ci - te,

A.

p

quae su - per cae - los sunt,

pp

Do - mi - no,

T.

sol

et lu - na,

pp

Do - mi - no,

p

be - ne -

B.

om-nis im-ber

et ros,

pp

Do - mi - no,

p

be - ne - di - ci - te,

Vln. I

p

Vln. II

p

Vla.

p

Vc.

pp

p

PERUSAL SCORE

91

S. an - ge-li Do-mi - ni,

A. *p* be - ne - di - cat, om - nis vir - tu-tis *pp* Do - mi - no.

T. di - ci- te, stel-lae cae - li, *pp* Do - mi - no.

B. om - nes ven - ti, *pp* Do - mi - no.

Vln. I *pp*

Vln. II *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

Cb. *p*

98

Ob. *mp molto espress.* *mf* *mp*

S. *p* Be - ne - di - ci - te,

A. *p* Be - ne - di - ci - te,

T. *p* Be - ne - di - ci - te,

B. *p* Be - ne - di - ci - te,

Vln. I *p*

Vln. II *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

Cb. arco *p* pizz.

PERUSAL SCORE

104

poco rit. a tempo ♩ = ca. 112

S. — ig - nis_ et ae-stus, Do - mi - no. be - ne - di - ci - te,_

A. — ro - res et pru-i - na, Do - mi - no. be - ne -

T. — gla - ci-es et ni-ves, Do - mi - no. be - ne - di - ci - te,_

B. — lux_ et ten - e-brae, Do - mi - no.

poco rit. a tempo ♩ = ca. 112

Vln. I — div. pp dolce

Vln. I — div. pp dolce

Vln. II — div. pp dolce

Vln. II — div. pp dolce

Vla. — pizz. p

Vc. — pizz. p

Cb. — p

arco

109

S. — fri - gus_ et ae - stus, Do - mi - no, Do -

A. — di - ci - te, ge - lu_ et fri - gus, Do - mi - no, Do -

T. — noc - tes_ et di - es, Do - - - -

B. — be - ne - di - ci - te ful - gu - ra et nu - bes, Do - - -

Vln. I — pp

Vln. I — pp

Vln. II — pp

Vln. II — pp

Vla. — pizz.

Vc. — (unis.)

Cb.

PERUSALISCORE

poco accel. (♩ = ♩.)

C

113

Ob. mp mf

Tpt. mp mf

S. mp mf - mi - no. Be - ne - di - cat ter - ra Do - mi - num:

A. mp mf - mi - no. Be - ne - di - cat ter - ra Do - mi - num:

T. mp mf - mi - no. Be - ne - di - cat ter - ra Do - mi - num:

B. mp mf - mi - no. Be - ne - di - cat ter - ra Do - mi - num:

C poco accel. (♩ = ♩.)

Vln. I mf

Vln. I mf

Vln. II mf

Vln. II mf

Vla. arco mf

Vc. arco mf

Cb. arco mf

Tempo I, gioioso ♩. = ca. 138

118

S. f Do - mi - num, ter - - ra Do - - mi -

A. f Do - mi - num, ter - - - ra Do - - mi -

T. f Do - - mi - num, ter - ra Do - - - - - mi -

B. Do - - mi - num, ter - ra Do - - - - - mi -

Tempo I, gioioso ♩. = ca. 138

Vln. I f

Vln. I f

Vln. II f

Vln. II f

Vla. f

Vc. f

Cb. f

PERUSAL SCORE

124

S. num: Do - - - mi - num:_____ lau - - det et - su - -

A. num: Do - - - mi - num:_____ lau - - det et su - -

T. num: Do - - - mi - num:_____ lau - - det et

B. num: Do - - - mi - num:_____ lau - det et sup -

Vln. I

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

131

S. - per - ex - al - tet e - um in sae - cu - la._____ Be - ne -

A. - per - ex - al - tet e - um in sae - cu - la._____ Be - ne - di - ci - te,

T. su - per - ex - al - tet e - um in sae - cu - la._____ Be - ne-di - ci - te, be - ne -

B. - per - ex - al - tet e - um in sae - cu - la._____ Be - ne-di - ci - te,

Vln. I

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

PERUSALSCORE

138

poco rit.

S. di - ci - te, be - ne - di - ci - te, be - ne - di - ci - te, be - ne-di - ci - te,

A. be - ne-di - ci - te, be - ne-di - ci - te, be - ne - di - ci - te, be - ne - di - ci - te,

T. di - ci - te, be - ne-di - ci - te, be - ne - di - ci - te,

B. be - ne - di - ci - te, be - ne-di - ci - te, be - ne - di - ci - te,

poco rit.

Vln. I

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

D

144

Con fuoco ♩. = ca. 126

Tpt. *f marziale*

B. Be - ne-di - ci - te, mon - tes et col - les, Do - mi-no, Be - ne-di - ci - te, un - i - ver-sa ger - mi-an - ti - a in ter - ra,

D

Con fuoco ♩. = ca. 126

Vln. I

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

PERUSAL SCORE