

# **♩ magnum mysterium**

*à 12*

by

**Charles H. Giffen**

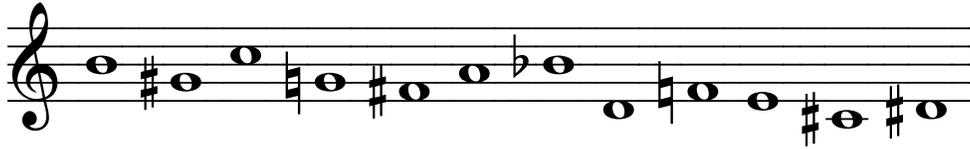
for

**SSAT - SATB - ATBB**

*a cappella*

**voices**





### Notes on the composition

In this work, I have tried to capture the awe and reflect an aura of the calm, deep-night mystery of the Incarnation of Jesus in Bethlehem, where stable animals witnessed, with Mary and Joseph, a cosmic event that changed the course of history for ever - occurring in that "fulness of time, fixed by the unsearchable counsel of God, when the Son of God took upon him the nature of man, that he might reconcile it to its Maker."

The music includes mainly twelve tone thematic but also whole tone harmonic material, which lend a sense of mystery and reverence as the music unfolds. The given markings for tempo are approximate and may be adjusted to suit the performance acoustics. The three 4-part groups may be separated by some distance if there is adequate space in the performance venue.

The text is the full responsory to the fourth lesson at Matins of Christmas Day and hence includes the short *Ave Maria, gratia plena: Dominus tecum* that is often omitted in musical settings.

<i>O magnum mysterium et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent Dominum natum jacentem in præsepio!</i>	O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord lying in a manger!
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<i>O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Christum.</i>	O blessed is the Virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.
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<i>Ave Maria, gratia plena: Dominus tecum.</i>	Hail Mary, full of grace: the Lord is with you.
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<i>O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Christum.</i>	Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.
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<i>Alleluia!</i>	Alleluia!
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# O magnum mysterium

Fourth responsory for  
Matins of Christmas Day

SSAT - SATB - ATBB

Charles H. Giffen (b. 1940)

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 48$

Cantus 1  
Medius 1  
Choir 1 (SSAT)  
left side  
Altus 1  
Tenor 1  
Cantus 2  
Altus 2  
Choir 2 (SATB)  
center  
Tenor 2  
Bassus 2  
Altus 3  
Tenor 3  
Choir 3 (ATBB)  
right side  
Barytonus 3  
Bassus 3

*p* *ma - gnum* *p* *ma - gnum* *p* *ste - ri - um.*

*p* *O* *p* *O* *p* *my - gnum* *p* *my - gnum* *p* *um.*

*p* *ri - um.*

2011-06-24

2015-07-31

2019-01-13

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A

C1 *p* O my - ste - ri - um, \_\_\_\_\_  
 M1 *p* O my - ste - ri - um, \_\_\_\_\_  
 A1 *pp* my - ste - ri - um, \_\_\_\_\_ *pp* O ma -  
 T1 *ppp* *pp* O ma - gnum \_\_\_\_\_ *pp* O ma -  
 C2 *p* O my - ste - ri - um, \_\_\_\_\_  
 A2 *pp* my - ste - ri - um, \_\_\_\_\_ *pp* O ma -  
 T2 *ppp* *pp* O ma - gnum \_\_\_\_\_ *pp* O ma -  
 B2 *ppp* *pp* O ma - - - gnum \_\_\_\_\_ *pp* O ma -  
 A3 *pp* my - ste - ri - um, \_\_\_\_\_ *pp* O ma -  
 T3 *ppp* *pp* O ma - gnum \_\_\_\_\_ *pp* O ma -  
 Bt3 *ppp* *pp* O ma - gnum \_\_\_\_\_ *pp* O ma -  
 B3 *ppp* *pp* O ma - gnum \_\_\_\_\_ *pp* O ma -  
 O ma - - - gnum \_\_\_\_\_ O ma -

**B**  $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 52$

20

C1

M1

A1  
*gnum my - ste - ri - um, et ad - mi - ra - bi - le*

T1  
*gnum my - ste - ri - um, Al - le - lu - ia!*

C2

A2  
*gnum my - ste - ri - um, et ad - mi - ra - bi - le*

T2  
*gnum my - ste - ri - um, Al - le - lu - ia!*

B2

A3  
*gnum my - ste - ri - um,*

T3  
*gnum my - ste - ri - um, Al - le - lu - ia!*

Bt3

B3  
*gnum my - ste - ri - um,*

*p mp p p<sub>3</sub> p<sub>3</sub> p<sub>3</sub> p<sub>3</sub>*

26

C1 *mp* ut \_\_\_\_\_ a - ni - ma-li -

M1 *p* Al-le-lu - ia! \_\_\_\_\_

A1 sa - cra - men - tum \_\_\_\_\_

T1 *mp* sa - cra - men - tum \_\_\_\_\_

C2 *mp* ut \_\_\_\_\_ a - ni - ma-li -

A2 *p* Al-le-lu - ia! \_\_\_\_\_

T2 *p* Al-le-lu - ia! \_\_\_\_\_

B2 *mp* et \_\_\_\_\_ ad - mi - ra - bi - le Al-le-lu - ia! \_\_\_\_\_

A3 *p* Al-le-lu - ia! \_\_\_\_\_

T3 Al-le-lu - ia! \_\_\_\_\_

Bt3 *mp* Al-le-lu - ia! \_\_\_\_\_ sa - cra - men - tum \_\_\_\_\_

B3 *mp* et \_\_\_\_\_ ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men - tum \_\_\_\_\_

31

C1 *a* *mp* vi - - - de - rent

M1 vi - - - de - rent

A1 *p*<sub>3</sub> Al-le-lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia!

T1 *p*<sub>3</sub> Al-le-lu - ia!

C2 *a* Al-le-lu - ia!

A2 *mp* Al-le-lu - ia!

T2 *mp* ut a - ni - ma - li - a

B2 Al-le-lu - ia!

31

A3 *p*<sub>3</sub> Al-le-lu - ia! *mp* vi -

T3 *mp* ut a - ni - ma - li - a vi -

Bt3 Al-le-lu - ia!

B3 *p*<sub>3</sub> Al-le-lu - ia!

C  $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 64$

36

*p* *f* *mp*

C1  
Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

M1  
Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

A1  
Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

T1  
Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

C2  
Al-le-lu - ia! Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

A2  
Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

T2  
Al-le-lu - ia! Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

B2  
Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

A3  
36 de - rent Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

T3  
de - rent Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

Bt3  
Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

B3  
Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem

D ♩ = c. 52

45 *p* *mp* *pp*

C1  
— in — prae — se — pi — o! —  
*p* *mp* *pp*

M1  
— in — prae — se — pi — o! —  
*p* *mp* *pp*

A1  
— in — prae — se — pi — o! —  
*p* *mp* *pp*

T1  
— in — prae — se — pi — o! —  
*p* *mp* *pp*

C2  
— in — prae — se — pi — o! —  
*p* *mp* *pp*

A2  
— in — prae — se — pi — o! —  
*p* *mp* *pp*

T2  
— in — prae — se — pi — o! —  
*p* *mp* *pp*

B2  
— in — prae — se — pi — o! —  
*p* *mp* *pp*

45 *p* *mp* *pp* *p*

A3  
— in — prae — se — pi — o! — O — ta  
*p* *mp* *pp* *p*

T3  
— in — prae — se — pi — o! —  
*p* *mp* *pp* *p* a -

Bt3  
— in — prae — se — pi — o! — be -  
*p* *mp* *pp* *p*

B3  
— in — prae — se — pi — o! — a -  
*p* *mp* *pp* *p*



66

*p* *mp* *mf*

C1 e - - - ta - mi - - - Chri - - -

*p* *mf*

M1 me - por - Do - - - Chri - - -

*p* *mp* *mf*

A1 ru - por - mi - - - Chri - - -

*p* *mp* *mf*

T1 runt re num

*p* *mf*

C2 por - Do - - - Chri - - -

*mp* *mf*

A2 ta - num

*mf*

T2 mi - - - Chri - - -

B2

66

A3

T3

Bt3

B3

76 F  $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 64$

*f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*

C1 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*

stum. A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

M1 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*

stum. A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

A1 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*

stum. A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

T1 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*

stum. A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

C2 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*

stum. A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

A2 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*

stum. A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

T2 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*

stum. A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

B2 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*

stum. A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

A3 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*

stum. A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

T3 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*

stum. A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

Bt3 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*

stum. A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

B3 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*

stum. A - ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na: Do -

G  $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 48$

86 *p*  
C1 - mi - nus te - cum. \_\_\_\_\_

*p* *mp*  
M1 - mi - nus te - cum. \_\_\_\_\_ O be - a - ta Vir - go,

*p* *mp*  
A1 - mi - nus te - cum. \_\_\_\_\_ O be - a - ta \_\_\_\_\_

*p* *mp*  
T1 - mi - nus te - cum. \_\_\_\_\_ O be - a - ta Vir - go,

*p*  
C2 - mi - nus te - cum. \_\_\_\_\_

*p* *mp*  
A2 - mi - nus te - cum. \_\_\_\_\_ O be - a - ta \_\_\_\_\_

*p*  
T2 - mi - nus te - cum. \_\_\_\_\_

*p* *mp*  
B2 - mi - nus te - cum. \_\_\_\_\_ O be - a - ta \_\_\_\_\_ Vir - go,

86 *p*  
A3 - mi - nus te - cum. \_\_\_\_\_

*p*  
T3 - mi - nus te - cum. \_\_\_\_\_

*p* *mp*  
Bt3 - mi - nus te - cum. \_\_\_\_\_

*p* *mp*  
B3 - mi - nus te - cum. \_\_\_\_\_ O be - a - ta \_\_\_\_\_ Vir - go,

95

*p* *mp*

C1 me - ru - e - runt por - ta - re Do - mi - num

M1 cu - jus vi - sce - ra

A1 Vir - go, cu - jus vi - sce - ra

T1 cu - jus vi - sce - ra

*p* *mp*

C2 me - ru - e - runt por - ta - re Do - mi - num

A2 Vir - go, cu - jus vi - sce - ra

T2 me - ru - e - runt por - ta - re

B2 cu - jus vi - sce - ra

95 *mp* *mp* *mp*

A3 me - ru - e - runt por - ta - re Do - mi -

T3 me - ru - e - runt por - ta - re

Bt3 me - ru - e - runt por - ta - re Do - mi -

B3 cu - jus vi - sce - ra

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 56$

102

C1  
Chri - stum. \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

M1  
Chri - stum. \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

A1  
Chri - stum. \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

T1  
Chri - stum. \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

C2  
Chri - stum. \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* Chri - stum. \_\_\_\_\_

A2  
Do-mi - num \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

T2  
Do-mi-num Chri - stum. \_\_\_\_\_ Chri - stum. \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

B2  
Do-mi - num \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

102

A3  
num Chri - stum. \_\_\_\_\_ Do-mi - num \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

T3  
Do-mi-num Chri - stum. \_\_\_\_\_ Chri - stum. \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

Bt3  
num Chri - stum. \_\_\_\_\_ Do-mi - num \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

B3  
Do-mi - num \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

**H** ♩ = c. 48

C1 *mf* lu - - -  
 M1 *mf* ya!  
 A1 *mp* Al - - -  
 T1 *mp* le -  
 C2 *mp* ya!  
 A2 *mf* Al - - -  
 T2 *p* le - - -  
 B2 *p* Al - - -  
 A3 *mf* le - - -  
 T3 *p* ya!  
 Bt3 *mp* lu - - -  
 B3 *p* lu - - -

I  $\text{♩} = c. 52$  *mp*  $\text{♩} = c. 56$

C1 Al - ia! \_\_\_\_\_ *mp*

M1 lu - \_\_\_\_\_ *mp*

A1 *mf* *mf* *mp*  
Al-le-lu-ia, al - le - lu-i - a, al-le-lu-i - a! \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

T1 Al - le - lu-ia! \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

C2 le - - - \_\_\_\_\_ *mp*

A2 *mf* *mf* *mp*  
Al-le-lu-ia, al - le - lu-i - a, al-le-lu-i - a! \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

T2 Al - le - lu-ia! \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

B2 Al - le - lu-ia! \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

A3 <sup>123</sup> *mf* *mf* *mp*  
Al-le-lu-ia, al - le - lu-i - a, al-le-lu-i - a! \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

T3 Al - le - lu-ia! \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

Bt3 Al - le - lu-ia! \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*

B3 Al - le - lu-ia! \_\_\_\_\_ *mf*



142  $\text{♩} = c. 48$  K *mp* *rallentando* *p* *pp*

C1  
Al - le - lu - i - a, al - le - lu - i - a!

M1  
Al - le - lu - i - a, al - le - lu - i - a!

A1  
*mf* *mp* *p* *pp*  
- i - a! Al - le - lu - i - a, al - le - lu - i - a!

T1  
*mf* *mp* *p* *pp*  
- i - a! Al - - - le - lu - ia!

C2  
*mf* *mp* *p* *pp*  
Al - le - lu - i - a, al - le - lu - i - a!

A2  
*mf* *mp* *p* *pp*  
- i - a! Al - le - lu - i - a, al - le - lu - i - a!

T2  
*mf* *mp* *p* *pp*  
- i - a! Al - - - le - lu - ia!

B2  
*mf* *mp* *p* *pp*  
- i - a! Al - - - le - lu - ia!

A3  
*mf* *mp* *p* *pp*  
- i - a! Al - le - lu - i - a, al - le - lu - i - a!

T3  
*mf* *mp* *p* *pp*  
- i - a! Al - - - le - lu - ia!

Bt3  
*mf* *mp* *p* *pp*  
- i - a! Al - - - le - lu - ia!

B3  
*mf* *mp* *p* *pp*  
- i - a! Al - - - le - lu - ia!