

Solemn Music

Use your numbered line
To describe constellations
Hunter and Capricorn
And heavenly Bears
Amid *Sanctus* sounds
And transports
The golden fury of wires

The lighted years
Of distant space
Are all made human
By modes of music
The questioning *vox humana*
The disciplines of chant

Take your compasses
To measure flight
Expanding silences
And pay attention
To the stillness of the end
Or the beginning
Sanctus
The abyss of brass
The sapphire orchestra

Bear the hot
Well-fired shot
Roaring out
Of the cool dark

And go to meet
In the wet estranged country

The midnight express
Bringing Plato, Prophets, Milton, Blake,
The nine daughters of memory

But use your own numbered line
To go down alone
Into the night sky
Hand over hand
And dig it like a mine.

- **Thomas Merton** from 'Cables to the Ace'

Solemn Music

Peter Vukmirovic Stevens

Text: Thomas Merton

Andante ♩ = 80

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

Piano for rehearsal only

...con-stel-la-tions

To de-scribe con-stel-la-tions

Use your num-bered line ...con-stel-la-tions

...your num-bered line To de-scribe con-stel-la-tions

Andante ♩ = 80

7

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno.

Hunt-er and Cap-ri-corn ...heav-en-ly Bears A-

...and Cap-ri-corn and heav-en-ly Bears

...Cap-ri-corn and heav-en-ly Bears

...your num-bered line

dim. mf poco cresc. f mp

dim. mf poco cresc. f mp

dim. mf poco cresc. f mp

dim. mf poco cresc. f mp

12

S. *cresc. mf*
- mid _____ Sanc - tus sounds _____ ...The

A. *cresc. mf*
A - mid _____ Sanc - tus _____ sounds _____ ...trans ports _____ The

T. *mf*
...Sanc - tus sounds _____ And trans - ports _____ The

B. *mf*
...Sanc - tus sounds _____ And trans - ports _____

Pno. *cresc. mf*

16

S. *cresc. f*
gold - en fu - ry of wires _____

A. *cresc. f*
gold - en fu - ry of wires _____

T. *cresc. f mf*
gold - en fu - ry of... of Sanc - tus sounds

B. *cresc. f mf*
The gold - en fu - ry ...of Sanc - tus

Pno. *cresc. f mf*

21

mf *poco cresc.*

S. The light-ed years of dis - tant space By modes_____ of

mf *poco cresc.*

A. ...years of dis - tant space ...hu - man By modes_____ of

mf *poco cresc.*

T. Are all made hu - man By modes_____ of

dim. *mf*

B. sounds Are all made hu - man_____

mf *poco cresc.*

Pno.

27

mp *mf* *cresc.* *f* *mf* *mp*

S. mu - sic ...vox hu - man - a_____ The dis - ci -

mp *mf* *cresc.* *f* *mp*

A. mu - sic ...vox hu - man - a_____ mu - sic The dis - ci -

mp *mf* *cresc.* *f* *mf* *mp*

T. mu - sic The ques - tion - ing_____ vox hu - man - a_____ The dis - ci -

mf *mp* *mf* *mp*

B. mu - sic_____ ...hu - man_____ modes of mu - sic The dis - ci -

mp *mf* *cresc.* *f* *mf* *mp*

Pno.

34

S. *poco dim. , mf poco cresc. f mf*
 plines of chant Take your com- pass - es To meas - ure flight Ex-

A. *poco dim. mf poco cresc. f mf*
 plines of chant ...your com- pass - es To meas - ure flight Ex-

T. *poco dim. mf poco cresc. mf*
 plines of chant ...com - pass - es Ex-

B. *mf poco cresc. dim. mf poco cresc. mf*
 plines of chant ...of vox - hu - man - a ...com - pass - es Ex-

Pno. *mf poco cresc. mf dim. mf poco cresc. f mf*

42

S. *dim. mp mf divisi tutti dim.*
 pand - ing si - len - ces And pay at - ten - tion to the still - ness of the end

A. *dim. mp mf dim.*
 pand - ing si - len - ces And pay at - ten - tion to the still - ness of the end

T. *dim. mf*
 pand - ing si - len - ces ...of the end

B. *dim. mf*
 pand - ing si - len - ces ...of the end Or the be -
 * * *

Pno. *dim. mp mf dim.*

A tempo

* raise one octave if needed

48 *mf poco cresc.* *p subito* \rightrightarrows *mp* *divisi* \rightrightarrows *mf* *tutti*

S. — A - mid sanc - tus sounds The sap - phire

A. *mf poco cresc.* *p subito* \rightrightarrows *mp*, *mf* \rightrightarrows *mf*

A. — A - mid sanc - tus sounds The a - byss of brass The sap - phire

T. *mf poco cresc.* *p subito* \rightrightarrows *mp*, *mf* \rightrightarrows *mf*

T. — A - mid sanc - tus sounds The a - byss of brass The sap - phire

B. *mf poco cresc.* *p subito* \rightrightarrows *mp* \rightrightarrows *mf*

B. gin - ning A - mid sanc - tus sounds ...brass The sap - phire

Pno. *mf poco cresc.* *p subito* \rightrightarrows *mp* *mf* \rightrightarrows *mf*

55 *poco cresc.* *f* \rightrightarrows *mf* *cresc.*

S. or - ches - tra ...well fired shot roar - ing out of the cool

A. *poco cresc.* *f* *mf* *divisi* *dim.*

A. or - ches - tra Bear the hot well fired shot

T. *poco cresc.* *f* *mf* \rightrightarrows *mf* *dim.*

T. or - ches - tra Sanc - tus Bear the hot well fired shot

B. *poco cresc.* *f* *mf* \rightrightarrows *mf* *dim.*

B. or - ches - tra Sanc - tus ...shot

Pno. *poco cresc.* *f* *mf* *dim.* *mf* *cresc.*

* raise bass in m.m. 56 - 58 one octave if necessary

62 *f* *mf* *dim.*

S. dark ...meet In the wet es - tranged coun - try

A. *mf* *tutti* *dim.*
And go to meet In the wet es - tranged coun - try

T. *mf* *dim.* *mf*
...es - tranged coun - try mid - night ex -

B. *mf* *dim.* *mf* *poco cresc.*
...es - tranged coun - try The mid - night ex -

Pno. *f* *mf* *mf* *dim.* *mf* *poco cresc.*

68 *mf dolce*

S. ...Proph - ets, Mil - ton, Blake... mem - o -

A. *mf dolce*
Bring - ing Pla - to, Proph - ets, Mil - ton, Blake, The nine daugh - ters of mem - o -

T. *mf dolce*
press Bring - ing Pla - to, Proph - ets, Mil - ton, Blake, The nine daugh - ters of mem - o -

B. *mf dolce*
press... Blake, ...daugh - ters of mem - o -

Pno. *mf*

74 *poco* *mf poco cresc.*

S. *mf poco cresc.*
 - ry In - to the night sky

A. *mf poco cresc.*
 - ry ...line To go down a - lone

T. *mf*
 - ry But use your own num - bered line ...down a - lone In ...the night sky

B. *mf*
 - ry ...your own num - bered line ...down a - lone ...sky

Pno. *mf* *poco cresc.* *mf*

81 *rit.* *f* *mf* *cresc.* *dim.* *mf*

S. *f* *mf* *cresc.* *dim.* *mf*
 Hand o - ver hand ...dig it like a mine.

A. *f* *mf* *cresc.* *dim.* *mf*
 Hand o - ver hand ...like a mine.

T. *f* *mf* *cresc.* *mf* *divisi*
 Hand o - ver hand And dig it like a mine.

B. *cresc.* *f* *mf* *cresc.* *dim.* *mf*
 In - to the night sky Hand o - ver hand And dig it like a mine.

Pno. *cresc.* *f* *mf* *cresc.* *dim.* *mf*