

for the Bach Society of Minnesota,  
Paul E. Oakley, conductor

Season Songs

# O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

(O Great Mystery)

A Christmas Meditation for Mixed Choir (SATB),  
Percussion, and Piano

Mack Wilberg

**Slowly flowing, with awed mystery (♩ = 54-58)**

The musical score is arranged for Chimes, Vibraphone, Glockenspiel, Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano. The tempo is 'Slowly flowing, with awed mystery' with a quarter note equal to 54-58 beats per minute. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes staves for Chimes, Vibraphone, Glockenspiel, Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The Chimes part has a 'mp' dynamic and a 'bring out' instruction. The Vibraphone part has a 'hold pedal throughout, motor off' instruction and a 'mp' dynamic. The Glockenspiel part is marked 'mp'. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are marked 'mp'. The Piano part is marked 'mp' and includes a 'hold pedal throughout' instruction. The second system includes staves for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano. The Piano part continues with the 'hold pedal throughout' instruction. The score features various time signatures including 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, and 5/4.

An alternate setting for Mixed Choir (SATB) and Piano Four-hands is available for sale from the Publisher (ISBN 0-19-386097-X).

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13

*\*O great mystery, and wondrous sacrament,*

**Tenor** *pp espr.*

**Bass** O mag - num mys - te - ri - um,

17

et ad - mi - ra - bi - le sac - ra - men - tum, Ut

21

Measures 21-24 of the piano accompaniment. The score is in B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The right hand features a melody with eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a steady bass line with quarter and eighth notes. Measure 24 ends with a whole note chord.

*that animals should see the newborn Lord lying in their manger!*

Measures 21-24 of the vocal and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in the bass clef, with lyrics written below the notes. The piano accompaniment is in the bass clef, with chords indicated by stacked notes. The lyrics are: a - ni - ma - li - a vi - de - rent Do - mi - num na - tum, Ja -

25

Measures 25-28 of the piano accompaniment. The score continues in B-flat major and 4/4 time. The right hand has a melody with eighth and quarter notes, and the left hand has a bass line with quarter and eighth notes. Measure 28 ends with a whole note chord.

Measures 25-28 of the vocal and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in the bass clef, with lyrics written below the notes. The piano accompaniment is in the bass clef, with chords indicated by stacked notes. The lyrics are: cen - tem, ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pi - o.

29

*Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!*

*p espr.*

Be - a - ta, Be - a - ta, Be - a - ta

*pp*

O Be - a - ta,

33

*p*

Vir - go, Be - a - ta, Be - a - ta, Be - a - ta

*pp*

O mag - num mys - te - ri - um, *pp* O Be - a - ta,