

Benedicite, omnia opera

Dedicated to Arian Khaefi
and the Handel Choir of Baltimore

Douglas Buchanan

Chanted; as a ritual (♩ = c. 44-48) *p* *mp*

Soprano: bless ye the Lord, O ye
Alto: bless ye the Lord, O ye
Tenor: O all ye Works of the Lord, praise him and mag-ni - fy him for - e - ver.
Baritone: O all ye Works of the Lord, praise him and mag-ni - fy him for - e - ver.

4

S: An - gels of the Lord, praise him and mag - ni - fy him for -
A: An - gels of the Lord, praise him and mag - ni - fy him for -
T: bless ye the Lord:
B: bless ye the Lord:

4

The score consists of five systems of music. The first system includes vocal parts for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Baritone, and a piano accompaniment. The Soprano and Alto parts begin with a rest, followed by the lyrics 'bless ye the Lord, O ye'. The Tenor and Baritone parts begin with the lyrics 'O all ye Works of the Lord, praise him and mag-ni - fy him for - e - ver.' The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more complex bass line in the left hand. The second system continues the vocal parts with the lyrics 'An - gels of the Lord, praise him and mag - ni - fy him for -'. The Tenor and Baritone parts have rests in the first measure of this system. The piano accompaniment continues with similar patterns. The third system shows the vocal parts continuing with 'bless ye the Lord:'. The piano accompaniment concludes with a final chord and a fermata.

Benedicite

S
e - ver. O ye hea - vens, bless the Lord, O ye Hea - vens, bless ye the

A
e - ver. O ye hea - vens, bless the Lord, O ye Hea - vens, bless ye the

T
O ye hea - vens, bless the Lord, O all Hea - vens, bless ye the

B
O ye hea - vens, bless the Lord, O all ye Hea - vens, bless ye the

S
mf Lord: praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver. *dim.* *mp* *rit.*

A
mf Lord: praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver. *dim.* *mp*

T
mf Lord, *mf* Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver. *dim.* *mp*

B
mf Lord, *mf* *dim.* Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for -

Benedicite

A Moving (♩ = c. 56-63)

S *mf* O ye Wa-ters _____ that be a - bove the

A *mp* < > *mp* *simile* O ye Wa-ters, O, O ye Wa-ters, O, O ye Wa-ters, O, O ye Wa-ters, O,

T *mp* < > *mp* *simile* O ye Wa-ters, O, O ye Wa-ters, O, O ye Wa-ters, O, O ye Wa-ters,

B *mp* 3 e - ver. _____

11

S Hea - vens, _____ Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for -

A O ye - ters, O, O ye Wa - ters, O, O ye Wa - ters, O,

T O, O ye Wa - ters, O, O ye Wa - ters, O, O ye Wa - ters,

B *mf* bless ye the Lord: _____

13

Benedicite

15 *poco f*
 S e - ver. O all ye Po - wers of the Lord,
 A *mf* O ye Po - wers all, O ye Po - wers all, O ye Po - wers all,
 T *poco f* O, O all ye Po - wers of the
 B *mf* O ye Po - wers all, O ye Po - wers all, O ye Po - wers

17 *cresc.* *f*
 S bless ye the Lord: Praise and mag - ni - fy him for
 A O ye Po - wers all, O ye Po - wers Praise and mag - ni - fy him for -
 T Lord, bless ye the Lord: Praise and
 B all, O ye Pow - ers all: Praise and

Benedicite

19

S *mf*
e - ver. O ye Sun and Moon, bless ye, bless ye the

A *mf*
e - ver. O ye Sun and Moon, bless ye, bless ye the

T *mf*
mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. Bless ye the Lord:

B *mf*
mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. Bless ye the Lord:

21

S *f* *dim.* *mf*
Lord: Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver.

A *f* *dim.* *mf*
Lord: Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver.

T *f* *mf*
Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver. O ye Stars of Heav'n,

B *f* *dim.* *mf*
Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver. O ye Stars of Heav'n,

23

S Bless ye the Lord: praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. —

A Bless ye the Lord: praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. —

T bless ye, bless ye the Lord: Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. —

B bless ye, bless ye the Lord: Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. —

26

S O ye Show-ers and dew, bless ye the Lord: praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver.

A Show-ers and Dew, bless ye the Lord: praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. —

T — — — — —

B — — — — — O ye

28

S

A

T *mf* < *f*

B *f* *mf*

O ye Winds of God, bless ye the Lord, praise him and mag - ni - fy him for -
Winds of God, bless ye the Lord: praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver. —

28

30

S *mf*

A *mf*

T *mf*

B *mf*

O ye Fire and Heat, bless ye the Lord, praise and mag - ni - fy him for -
O ye Fire and Heat, bless ye the Lord, praise and
e - ver. — O ye Fire and Heat, bless ye the
O ye Fire and Heat,

30

32

S e-ver. — O ye Win-ter and Sum-mer, — — — — — bless ye the Lord: praise and

A mag-ni-fy him for - e-ver. — — — — — O ye Win-ter and Sum-mer, — — — — — bless ye the

T Lord: praise and mag-ni-fy him for e-ver. — — — — — O ye Win-ter and Sum-mer,

B — — — — — bless ye the Lord: praise and mag - ni - fy him for-e- ver. — — — — —

34

S mag - ni-fy him for e-ver. — — — — — O ye

A Lord: — — — — — praise and mag - ni-fy-him for - e-ver. — — — — — O ye

T — — — — — bless ye the Lord: praise and mag - ni-fy him for e-ver. — — — — —

B O ye Win-ter and — — — — — Sum-mer, — — — — — bless ye the Lord: praise and mag - ni-fy him for-e-ver.

Benedicite

3+2+2+2 3+2+2 3+3+3+2+2

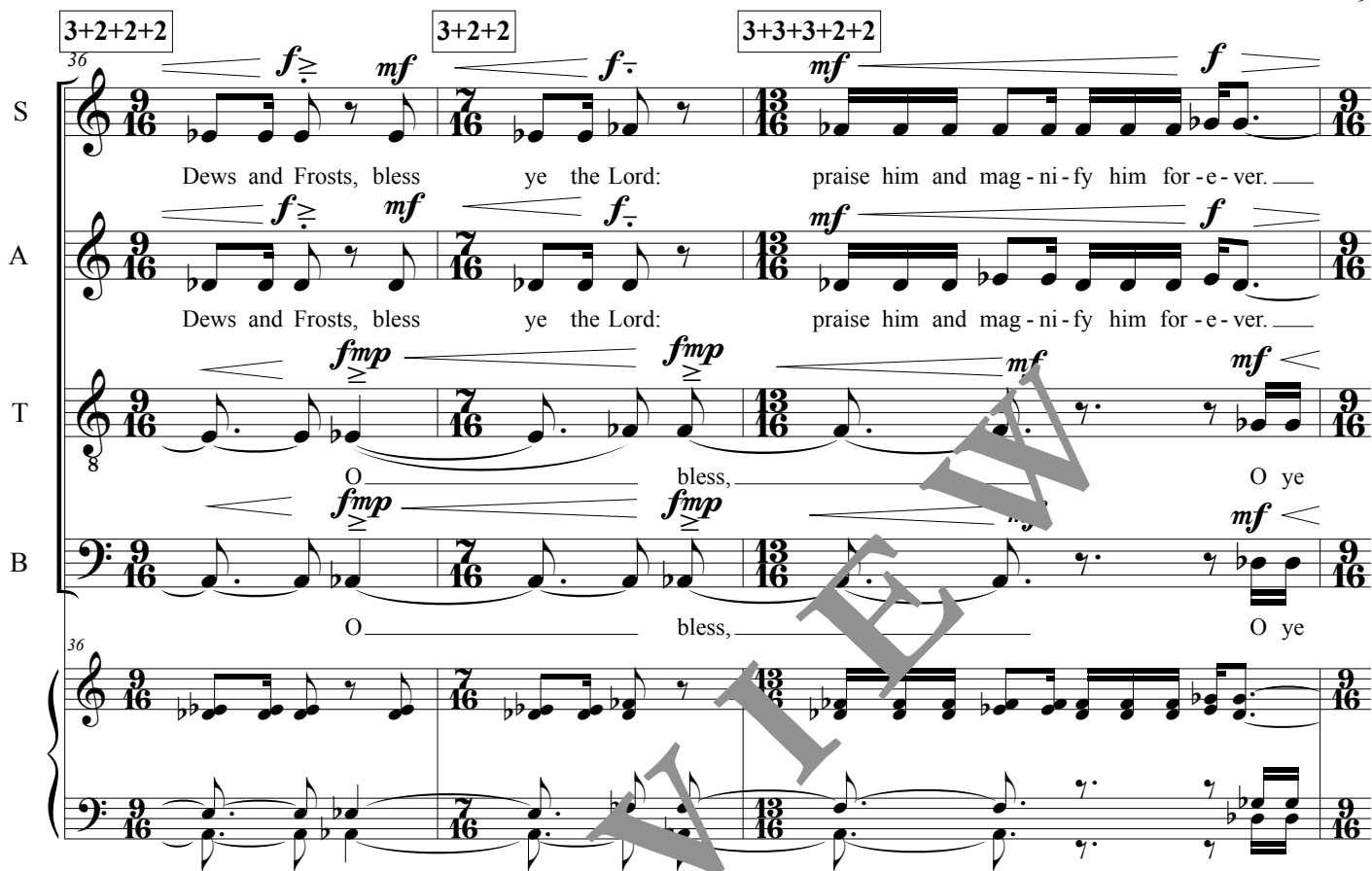
S *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

A *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

T *fmp* *fmp* *mf* *mf*

B *fmp* *fmp* *mf*

36 Dews and Frosts, bless ye the Lord: praise him and mag-ni-fy him for-e-ver. —
Dews and Frosts, bless ye the Lord: praise him and mag-ni-fy him for-e-ver. —
O bless, O ye
O bless, O ye



3+2+2+2 3+2+2 3+3+3+2+2

S *fmp* *fmp* *mf* *mf*

A *fmp* *fmp* *mf* *mf*

T *f* *f*

B *f* *f*

39 O bless O ye
O bless O ye
Frost and Cold, bless ye the Lord: praise him and mag-ni-fy him for-e-ver. —
Frost and Cold, bless ye the Lord: praise him and mag-ni-fy him for e-ver. —



10

Benedicite

42 $3+2+2+2$ $3+2+2$ $3+3+3+2+2$

f *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

S Ice and Snow, bless ye the Lord, praise him and mag-ni-fy him for e-ver.

A Ice and Snow, bless ye the Lord: praise him and mag-ni-fy him for -e-ver.

T *fmp* *fmp* *mf* *f*

B O praise, O ye

42 O praise, O ye

45 $3+3+2+2+2$ $3+2+2+2$ $3+3+3+2+2$

S praise O ye

A O praise O ye

T 8 Nights and Days, bless ye the Lord: Praise him and mag-ni-fy him for -e-ver.

B Nights and Days, bless ye the Lord: Praise him and mag-ni-fy him for -e-ver.

45

48 3+3+2+2+2 3+3+2+2

S Light and Dark-ness, bless ye the Lord: praise him and mag-ni-fy him for *dim.*

A Light and Dark-ness, bless ye the Lord: praise him and mag-ni-fy him for *dim.*

T *fp* Bless, *cresc.* praise, *f*

B *fp* Bless, *cresc.* praise,

51 *mf cresc.* *ff* *p*

S e-ver. ye Light-nings and Clouds,

A *mf cresc.* *ff* *p* e-ver. O ye Light-nings and Clouds, bless ye the

T *mf cresc.* *ff* *p* O ye, O ye Light-nings and Clouds, *p subito* *mp* bless ye the Lord:

B *mf cresc.* *ff* O ye, O ye Light-nings and Clouds, bless ye the Lord:

54 *mp* *mf*

S Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver. Praise him and mag - ni -

A Lord: praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver.

T 8 *mp* praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver.

B *mp* praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver.

56 *f* *f* *f* *f* *mf*

S fy him for e - ver. Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for

A *mf* Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver. Praise him and mag - ni -

T *mf* Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. Praise him and

B *mf* Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver.

Benedicite

58 *cresc.* *rall.*

S e - ver, praise him and mag - ni fy him for e - ver.

A fy him for - e - ver, praise him and mag - ni fy him for e - ver.

T mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver, praise and mag - ni fy him for - e - ver.

B *f* Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver, mag - ni - fy him for e - ver.

58

Tempo I (♩ = c. 44-48)

60 *piu f* *f* *rall.* *poco f* *a tempo*

S O let the Earth bless the Lord, O let the Earth bless the Lord:

A O let the Earth bless the Lord, O let the Earth bless the Lord: yea let it praise

T O let the Earth bless the Lord, the Earth bless the Lord,

B O let the Earth bless the Lord, the Earth bless the Lord,

60

63

S *mf* yea, let it praise him, yea let it praise him,

A *mf* him, *mp* yea, let it praise him, yea let it praise

T *mf* *dim.* let it praise, let it praise, let it praise the Lord, *mp* it praise the Lord,

B *mf* *dim.* let it praise the Lord, praise the

63

rubato (*accel.* - - - *rall.*) *mp* *dim.* *p* **With motion** (♩ = c. 50-54)

S *mp* *dim.* and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver.

A *mp* *dim.* him, and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver.

T *p* and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. *mp* O ye Moun-tains and Hills, *mp* bless ye the

B *mp* Lord. *mp* O ye Moun-tains and Hills, *mp* bless ye the Lord:

67

71 *poco a poco accel.* **mp** **2+3** **A little faster** (♩. = c. 54-58)

S
A
T
B

Lord: praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver.

O all - ye Green Things u -

75 *cresc.* **f** *poco a poco accel.* **f** **mf**

S
A
T
B

Things u - pon the Earth, bless ye the Lord: praise him and mag - ni -

pon the heav'n, bless ye the Lord: praise him and mag - ni - fy - him for - e - ver.

79 *mf* Flowing (♩. = c. 63) *mf*

S
fy him for e-ver. O ye

A

T
8 *mf* O ye Wells, bless ye the Lord: praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - *mf*

B
mf O ye Wells, bless ye the Lord: praise him and mag - ni -

83

S
Seas, an Floods, praise him and mag - ni - fy him for -

A
mf O ye Seas and Floods, praise him and

T
8 e - ver. Bless him, praise him. *mf*

B
mf fy him for - e - ver. Bless him, praise him. *mf*

86 *dim.* *p*

S e - ver. _____ Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver. Praise him and mag - ni -

A *dim.* *p*
mag - ni - fy him for e - ver. _____ Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver.

T *mp* *mf*
O praise him, O ye Whales, O ye Whales, O ye Whales,

B *mp* *mf*
O praise him, O ye Whales, ye Whales, O ye Whales,



Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 86 through 89. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The Soprano and Alto parts begin with a *dim.* (diminuendo) marking and a *p* (piano) dynamic. The Tenor and Bass parts start with a *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic, which then shifts to *mf* (mezzo-forte). The lyrics are: Soprano: "e - ver. _____ Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver. Praise him and mag - ni -"; Alto: "mag - ni - fy him for e - ver. _____ Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver."; Tenor: "O praise him, O ye Whales, O ye Whales, O ye Whales,"; Bass: "O praise him, O ye Whales, ye Whales, O ye Whales,". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with chords and moving lines.

90

S fy, O ye Whales, ye Whales, O ye Whales, O ye Whales and all that

A O ye Whales, ye Whales, O ye Whales, O ye Whales and all the

T O ye Whales, O ye Whales, O ye Whales, and all

B O ye Whales, O ye Whales, O ye Whales, and all



Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 90 through 93. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: Soprano: "fy, O ye Whales, ye Whales, O ye Whales, O ye Whales and all that"; Alto: "O ye Whales, ye Whales, O ye Whales, O ye Whales and all the"; Tenor: "O ye Whales, O ye Whales, O ye Whales, and all"; Bass: "O ye Whales, O ye Whales, O ye Whales, and all". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with chords and moving lines.

94

S move _____ in the Wa - ters, *mp* bless ye the Lord, bless ye the

A move _____ in the Wa - ters, *mp* bless ye the Lord, bless ye the

T that _____ move _____ in the Wa - ters, *mf* *mp* bless ye the Lord,

B that _____ move _____ in the Wa - ters, *mf* *mp* bless ye the Lord,

94

98

S Lord: praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. *p* Praise him and mag - ni -

A Lord: praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver, *p* O praise him and mag - gni - fy him.

T bless ye the Lord: *mp* *mf* O all ye Fowls, of the Air,

B bless ye the Lord: *mp* *mf* O all ye Fowls of the Air,

98

102 *cresc. mp cresc. mf cresc.*

S fy him for e-ver ye Fowls, of the Air, O all ye Beasts, and Cat - tle, O all ye

A *cresc. mp cresc. mf cresc.*
O ye Fowls, of the Air, O all ye Beasts, and Cat - tle, O all ye

T O all ye Fowls, of the Air, Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver, bless ye the Lord, *cresc.*

B O all ye Fowls, of the Air, Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver, bless ye the Lord, *cresc.*

107 *cresc. ff marcato ff marcato 3*

S Beasts, and Cat - tle Praise and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. O ye Chil - dren of Men, *ff marcato 3*

A Beasts, and Cat - tle praise and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. O ye Chil - dren of Men, *ff marcato 3*

T all ye Beasts and Cat - tle praise and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. O ye Chil - dren of Men, *ff marcato 3*

B all ye Beasts and Cat - tle, praise and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver. O

112

S
A
T
B

ble³ss ye the Lord: praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. O let Is - ra - el

ble³ss ye the Lord: praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. O let Is - ra - el

ble³ss ye the Lord: praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. O let Is - ra - el

ble³ss ye, O

112

117

S
A
T
B

ble³ss the Lord: praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. *ff* O ye Priests of the Lord, ble³ss ye the

ble³ss the Lord, praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. *f* O ble³ss, —

ble³ss the Lord, praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver. *ff* O ye Priests of the Lord, ble³ss ye the

ble³ss ye, O ble³ss, —

117

122

S Lord: praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. O ye Servants,

A praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. O ye

T Lord: praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. O ye Ser - vants,

B praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - ever. O ye

126

S of the Lord, bless ye the Lord: praise and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. 3+2+2

A Ser - vants, bless ye the Lord: Lord:

T of the Lord, bless ye the Lord: praise and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver.

B Ser - vants, bless ye the Lord:

130 *ff* *mf* *f* *ff*

S O ye Spi - rits and Souls, bless ye the

A O ye Spi - rits and Souls of the Righ - teous,

T O ye Spi - rits and Souls, bless ye the

B O ye Spi - rits and Souls of the Righ - teous,

133 $3+2+2+3$ *f*

S Lord. O ye ho - ly and hum - ble Men of

A *mf* *f* praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver. Bless ye

T Lord. O ye ho - ly and hum - ble Men of

B *mf* *f* praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver. Bless ye

137 *mf* *cresc.*

S heart praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver.

A the Lord, *cresc.* bless ye the Lord.

T heart praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver.

B the Lord, *cresc.* bless ye the Lord.

137

140 *ff*

S O A - na - ni - as, A - za - ri - as, and Mi - sa - el,

A O bless, O

T O A - na - ni - as, A - za - ri - as, and Mi - sa - el,

B O bless, O

140

Benedicite

rall. molto

Quickly; con fuoco (♩. = c. 72-80)

143

S
A
T
B

bless ye the Lord, _____ bless ye the Lord:
bless, bless ye the Lord: _____
bless, bless ye the Lord: _____
bless, bless ye the Lord: _____

Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for -
Glo - ry be ___ to ___ the

143

147

S
A
T
B

Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver, e - ver, e - ver,
Glo - ry be ___ to ___ the Fa - ther, and to the Son,
Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver,
Glo - ry be ___ to ___ the Fa - ther, and to the Ho - ly
Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for -
Glo - ry be ___ to ___ the

e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver,
Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost. As it

147

simile

Benedicite

150

S

e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver,
and to the Ho - ly Ghost, as it was in the be - gin - ning,

A

e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, *f* praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver, e - ver, e - ver,
Ghost: as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and shall

T

e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, *f* praise him and mag - ni - fy him for -
and to the Ho - ly Ghost, as it was in the be -

B

praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver,
was in the be - gin - ning, is now and shall be for - e - ver,

150

153

Fast (♩. = c. 88-100)

S

praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver, e - ver, e - ver,
is now and shall be for - e - ver, e - ver, e - ver,

A

e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, *f* praise him and mag - ni - fy him for
be for e - ver: World with out

T

e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver,
gin - ning, is now and shall be for - e - ver,

B

e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, e - ver,

153

26
155

Benedicite
mf

S e - ver, e - ver, praise him and World and

A e - ver, e - ver, e - ver, praise him and mag - ni - fy him for -
end, with - out end. World with out

T e - ver, e - ver, praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver.
e - ver, e - ver, world with out end.

B praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver. praise him and mag - ni - fy him for
world with - out end. World with - out

155

S *dim.* mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver.
with out end.

A e - ver.
end. Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for e - ver.
World with - out end.

T Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver.
World with - out end.

B e - ver.
end.

157

Repeat boxed passages, more or less asynchronously, for ca. 30", gradually getting softer and slower, until coalescing on the indicated pitch (the peak of the line). It is most effective if singers slow at different rates, and allow for breaths of differing duration between repetitions of lines (though these breaths should still be quick), creating the sensation of waves, or of clockwork metronomes winding down. For purposes of blending, it may prove profitable to hold the final vowel on "ah" before closing to the diphthong (in the case of "ever") or consonant (in the case of "end").

S *poco a poco dim. e rall.* (ca. 30")

A *poco a poco dim. e rall.* (ca. 30")

T *poco a poco dim. e rall.* (ca. 30")

B *poco a poco dim. e rall.* (ca. 30")

158 *Slowly chanted* (♩. = c. 38-40) *p* [hum or "oo"] *rit.* *dim. al niente*

S *mp* Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. *dim. al niente*

A *mp* Praise him and mag - ni - fy him for - e - ver. *dim. al niente*

T *p* [hum or "oo"] *dim. al niente*

B *p* [hum or "oo"] *dim. al niente*

158