

JOHN SYKES

Anthem for Double Choir

A LITANIE

Words by

John Donne

The JOHN SYKES PROJECT

Piu Allegro, $p = p$

Handwritten musical score for the first system. It consists of five staves. The top two staves are vocal lines. The bottom three staves are piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Thine ear to our sighs ..., Tears, Thoughts gives voice and". The tempo is marked "Piu Allegro" and the dynamic is "mf". The word "Legato" is written above the piano accompaniment. The score is divided into four measures by vertical bar lines. The first measure is in 3/4 time, and the subsequent three are in 4/4 time. The piano accompaniment includes slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

Piu Allegro. $p = p$

Handwritten musical score for the second system. It consists of five staves. The top two staves are vocal lines. The bottom three staves are piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Thine ear to our sighs, Tears, Thoughts gives voice and". The tempo is marked "Piu Allegro" and the dynamic is "mf". The score is divided into four measures by vertical bar lines. The first measure is in 3/4 time, and the subsequent three are in 4/4 time. The piano accompaniment includes slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

Piu Allegro. $p = p$

Handwritten musical score for the third system. It consists of five staves. The top two staves are vocal lines. The bottom three staves are piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Thine ear to our sighs, Tears, Thoughts gives voice and". The tempo is marked "Piu Allegro" and the dynamic is "mf". The score is divided into four measures by vertical bar lines. The first measure is in 3/4 time, and the subsequent three are in 4/4 time. The piano accompaniment includes slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

A Litanie

[Words from Stanza XXIII, The Litanie, from “Divine Poems” by John Donne]

Heare us, O heare us, Lord; to thee
A sinner is more musique, when he prayes,
Than spheares, or Angels praises bee,
In Panegyrique Allelujaes;
Heare us, for till thou heare us, Lord
We know not what to say;
Thine ease t'our sighes, teares, thoughts gives voice and word.
O Thou who Satan heard'st in Job's sicke day,
Heare thyselve now, for thou in us dost pray.

John Sykes set these words for double S.A.T.B. Choir in the early months of 1933, while he was a composition pupil of Vaughan Williams at the Royal College of Music. The manuscript is carefully presented in neat writing and bound in booklet form. This makes me wonder if it was part of his entry for the Arthur Sullivan Composition Prize in 1933, in which he was joint winner with Miriam Hyde.

(The award brought him the princely sum of £5 – a significant part of the termly fees of fourteen guineas!)

The major tempo changes are a problem if ♩ = ♪ and ♪ = ♩ are to be believed (the note values are reversed in the MS), especially as this does not agree with *piu allegro*. I suspect that they may be more an indication of where the beat lies than of a mathematical ratio,.

P.J.C.

Summer, 2011

The John Sykes Project is an informal group of former pupils who are transcribing and publishing his music on the internet, and encouraging its performance.

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A Litanie

John Donne

John Sykes

Grave e Maestoso *p* *f* *p*

Soprano
Heare us, Oh Heare us Lord.

Alto
Heare us, Oh Heare us Lord.

Tenor
Heare us, Oh Heare us Lord.

Bass
Heare us, Oh Heare us Lord. To

Grave e Maestoso *p* *f* *p* *mf*

Soprano
Heare us, Oh Heare us Lord.

Alto
Heare us, Oh Heare us Lord.

Tenor
Heare us, Oh Heare us Lord.

Bass
Heare us, Oh Heare us Lord. To

Grave e Maestoso *p* *f* *mf*

Piano (for rehearsal only)

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8 *mf*
 To Thee___ a sin-ner is more Mus -

mf
 To Thee___ a sin - ner is more_ Mus -

mf
 To Thee___ a sin-ner is more Mus - - ique, Mus -

Thee___ a sin-ner is more Mus - icke when___ he prayes; Mus - - -

mf
 To Thee___ a sin-ner is more Mus -

mf
 To Thee___ a sin - ner is more_ Mus -

mf
 To Thee___ a sin-ner is more Mus - - icke, Mus -

Thee___ a sin-ner is more Mus - icke when___ he prayes, Mus - - -

14 *f* , *p* *f*

- - - icke when he prayes Than Spheares_____ or

- - - icke when he prayes Than Spheares_____ of

- - - icke when he prayes Than Spheares_____ of

- - - icke when he prayes Than Spheares_____ of

f , *dim.* *p*

- icke when he prayes Than Spheares_____ of ang - el's prais - es

- icke when he prayes Than Spheares_____ of ang - el's prais - es

- icke when he prayes Than Spheares_____ of ang - el's prais - es

- icke when he prayes Than Spheares_____ of ang - el's prais - es

Piano accompaniment for the final system, featuring a treble and bass clef with various chords and melodic lines.

Più mosso

20

ang - el's prais-es bee, In
 ang - el's prais-es bee, In
 ang - el's prais-es bee, In
 ang - el's prais-es bee, In

Più mosso

bee, In Pan - e - gyr-ique All - - - e - luj-aes
 bee, In Pan - e - gyr-ique All - - - e - luj-aes
 bee, In Pan - e - gyr-ique All - - - e - luj-aes
 bee, In Pan - e - gyr-ique All - - - e - luj-aes

Più mosso

Piano accompaniment for the final section, featuring chords and melodic lines in both hands.

25

Pan - e - gyr - ique All - e - luj

Pan - e - gyr - ique All - e - luj

Pan - e - gyr - ique All - e - luj

Pan - e - gyr - ique All - e - luj

mp

In

30

p
aes;

p *mp*
aes; In Pan - - - e-gyr-ique All - - - -

p *mf*
aes; Pan - e-gyr-ique All - e-

p
aes;

Pan - - - - e - gyr - ique All - - - - e -

mf
Pan - e - gyr - ique All -

35

mf
In Pan e - gyr - ique

p *mf*
- e - luj - aes, In Pan - - - e - gyr ique -

p
luj - - - aes,

Detailed description: This system contains three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, 5/4 time, with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The lyrics are "In Pan e - gyr - ique". The middle staff is another vocal line in treble clef, 5/4 time, with dynamic markings of *p* and *mf*. The lyrics are "- e - luj - aes, In Pan - - - e - gyr ique -". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment line in treble clef, 5/4 time, with a dynamic marking of *p*. The lyrics are "luj - - - aes,". The system concludes with a 4/4 time signature change.

mf
In Pan - - - e -

p *mf*
luj - - - aes, In Pan - - - e -

p
- e - luj - - - aes,

Detailed description: This system contains three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, 5/4 time, with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The lyrics are "In Pan - - - e -". The middle staff is another vocal line in treble clef, 5/4 time, with dynamic markings of *p* and *mf*. The lyrics are "luj - - - aes, In Pan - - - e -". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment line in treble clef, 5/4 time, with a dynamic marking of *p*. The lyrics are "- e - luj - - - aes,". The system concludes with a 4/4 time signature change.

p *mf*

Detailed description: This system contains two staves. The top staff is a piano accompaniment line in treble clef, 5/4 time, with dynamic markings of *p* and *mf*. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment line in bass clef, 5/4 time, with dynamic markings of *p* and *mf*. The system concludes with a 4/4 time signature change.

39

ff
All - e - lu - j - aes

cresc. ff
All - e - lu - j - a - e - s

f ff
All - e - lu - j - aes, All - e - lu - j - a - e - s

ff
All - e - lu - j - a - e - s

ff
gyr - i - que All - e - lu - j - a - e - s,

cresc. ff
gyr - i - que All - e - lu - j - a - e - s

f
All - e - lu - j - a - e - s

ff
All - e - lu - j - a - e - s

f
All - e - lu - j - a - e - s

43

f
 — Pan - e - gyr-ique All - e - luj - aes

aes, *f*
 Pan - e - gyr-ique All - e - luj - aes

aes, *f*
 Pan - e - gyr-ique All - e - luj - aes,

f
 Pan - e - gyr-ique All - - - e - luj - aes,

f
 Pan - e - gyr-ique

aes, *f*
 Pan - e - gyr-ique

f
 Pan - e - gyr-ique

aes, *f*
 Pan - e - gyr-ique All -

f *f*

48

mf

Pan - e - gyr ique All - e - luj - aes

mf

Pan - e - gyr ique All - e - luj - aes

mf

Pan - e - gyr ique All - e - luj - aes

f

Pan - e-gyr ique All - e - luj - aes,

mf

All - e - luj - aes, All - e -

mf

All - e - luj - aes, All - e -

mf

All - e - luj - aes, All - e - luj -

mf

- e - luj - aes, All - e -

mf

53

All - e - luj - aes *p* All - e - luj - aes
 All - e - luj - aes *p* All - e - luj - aes
 All - e - luj - aes *p* All - e - luj - aes
 All - e - luj - aes *mf* *p* Pan - e - gy - ique All - e - luj - aes
 luj - aes All - e - luj - aes *p* All -
 luj - aes All - e - luj - aes *p* All -
 - aes, All - e - luj - aes *p* All -
 - luj - aes, All - e - luj - aes *p* All - e -

59

rall.

Tempo primo

pp p

All - e - luj - aes, Oh Heare us,

pp p

All - e - luj - aes, Oh Heare us,

pp p

All - e - luj - aes, Oh Heare us,

pp p

All - e - luj - aes, Oh Heare us,

rall.

Tempo primo

pp p

- e - luj - aes. Oh

pp p

- e - luj - aes. Oh

pp p

- e - luj - aes. Oh

pp p

- - luj - aes. Oh

rall.

Tempo primo

pp p

66

molto espress. e sostenuto

p

For till Thou Hear us, Lord, we know not what to say

p

For till Thou Hear us, Lord, we know not what to say

p

For till Thou Hear us, Lord, we know not what to say

p

For till Thou Hear us, Lord, we know not what to say

molto espress. e sostenuto

mp

Hear us For till Thou Hear us, Lord, we know not what to

For till Thou Hear us,

Lord, we know not what to

For till Thou Hear us,

Lord, we know not what to

For till Thou Hear us,

Lord, we know not what to

For till Thou Hear us,

Lord, we know not what to

For till Thou Hear us,

Lord, we know not what to

molto espress. e sostenuto

p

mp

73 *pp* *cresc.* *ff*

Oh Heare us Oh - Heare us, Lord

pp *ff*

Oh Heare us Oh - Heare us, Lord

pp *ff*

Oh Heare us Oh - Heare us, Lord

pp *ff*

Oh Heare us Oh - Heare us, Lord

pp *ff*

say Heare us, Oh Heare us Lord

pp *ff*

say Heare us Oh Heare us Lord

pp *ff*

say Heare us Oh Heare us Lord

pp *ff*

say Heare us Oh Heare us Lord

79 Più Allegro, ♩ = ♩

Thine eare to our sighs___ tears,___

Thine eare to our sighs___ tears,___ thoughts gives voice and word; Oh Heare___ us, Oh

mf
legato

mf

Più Allegro, ♩ = ♩

Thine eare to our sighs___ tears,___

Thine eare to our sighs___ tears,___ thoughts gives voice and word; Oh Heare___ us, Oh

mf
legato

mf

Più Allegro, ♩ = ♩

Thine eare to our sighs___ tears,___

Thine eare to our sighs___ tears,___ thoughts gives voice and word; Oh Heare___ us, Oh

mf

Thine eare to our sighs, tears, thoughts gives voice and

thoughts gives voice and word; Oh Heare us, Oh Lord,

Lord, Our sighs, tears, thoughts gives

legato mf

mf

mf

Thine eare to our sighs, tears, thoughts gives voice and

thoughts gives voice and word; Oh Heare us, Oh Lord,

Lord, Our sighs, tears, thoughts gives

legato mf

mf

mf

mf *p espress.*

word; Oh Heare us Oh Lord, our sighs,

p

Thine eare to our sighs, tears, thoughts gives voice and

p

voice and word; to our sighs, tears thoughts give voice and

mf *p espress.*

word; Oh Heare us Oh Lord, our sighs,

p

Thine eare to our sighs, tears, thoughts gives voice and

p

voice and word; to our sighs, tears thoughts give voice and

mf *p*

97 *legato mf* *mp*

Thine eare to our sighs, tears, thoughts gives voice and word Oh Heare us,

mf *mp*

Oh Heare us, Oh Lord, Thine eare to our sighs,

mf *mp*

word, Thine eare to our sighs, tears, gives voice and word; our sighs, tears,

mf *mp* *piu forte*

word; Oh Heare us Oh Lord, our sighs, tears, Oh

legato mf *mp*

Thine eare to our sighs, tears, thoughts gives voice and word Oh Heare us,

mf *mp*

Oh Heare us, Oh Lord; Thine eare to our sighs,

mf *mp*

word, Thine eare to our sighs, tears, gives voice and word; our sighs, tears,

mf *mp* *piu forte*

word; Oh Heare us Oh Lord, our sighs, tears, Oh

mf *mp* *cresc.*

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Lord Oh Heare us, our sighs Thine eare gives
 tears, thoughts gives voice and word to our sighs, tears, thine eare gives
 thoughts, gives voice and word, our sighs, Thine eare gives
 Heare us Oh Lord our tears, Thine eare gives
 Lord Oh Heare us, our sighs Thine eare gives
 tears, thoughts gives voice and word to our sighs, tears, thine eare gives
 thoughts, gives voice and word, our sighs, Thine eare gives
 Heare us Oh Lord our tears, Thine eare gives

110

word

word.

word.

Oh Thou who Sa-tan heardst in Job's sicke

word.

Oh Thou who Sa - tan heardst in Job's sicke

word

word.

word.

Oh Thou who Sa - tan heardst in Job's sicke

word. Oh Thou who Sa - tan heardst, who heardst in Job's sicke

116

Oh Thou who Sa-tan heardst in Job's sicke

Oh Thou who Sa - tan heardst in Job's sicke

day Oh Thou who Sa - tan heardst in Job's sicke

day

Oh Thou who Sa - tan heardst in Job's sicke

Oh Thou who Sa - tan heardst, who heardst in Job's sicke

day, Oh Thou who Sa - tan heardst, who heardst in Job's sicke

day,

122

day, _____ For Thou in us _____ dost pray;— Heare _____ Thy- self _

day _____ For Thou in _____

day _____

Heare _____ Thy _____ self now,

day _____ For Thou in us _____ dost pray_

day _____

day _____

Heare _____ Thy _____ self now,

mf

128

now for Thou in us dost pray; Heare Thy - self now for

us dost pray; Heare Thy self now, for Thou in

For

For Thou in us dost pray;

Heare Thy self for Thou in us dost pray; Heare

For Thou in us dost pray; Heare Thy self now for Thou in

For Thou in us

For Thou in us dost pray; Heare Thy

134

Thou in us dost pray, For Thou in us dost pray, Thou

us dost pray, Thou

Thou in us dost pray, Thou in us dost pray, Thou

Heare Thy self now, for Thou in us dost pray, Thou

For Thou in us dost pray, for Thou in us dost pray, Heare

us dost pray, for Thou in us dost pray, Heare

dost pray, Heare Thy self, for Thou in us dost pray, Heare

self now, for Thou in us dost pray, Heare

The piano accompaniment consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with complex chordal textures and melodic lines, including trills and slurs.

141

dim. e rall.

Tempo primo: ♩ = ♩

p

in us dost pray

dim. e rall.

p

in us dost pray

dim. e rall.

p

in us dost pray

dim. e rall.

p

in us dost pray

Tempo primo: ♩ = ♩

dim. e rall.

p

p

Thy self now, Heare

dim. e rall.

p

p

Thy Self now, Heare

dim. e rall.

p

Thy self now, Oh Heare

dim. e rall.

p

Thy self now, Oh Heare

Tempo primo: ♩ = ♩

dim. e rall.

p

Thy self now, Oh Heare

Thy self now, Oh Heare

Allargando

148

Heare us Oh Heare us Lord

Heare us Oh Heare us Lord

Oh heare us Oh Heare us Lord

Oh heare us Oh Heare us Lord

Allargando

us Oh heare us Lord

Allargando

mp ff pp