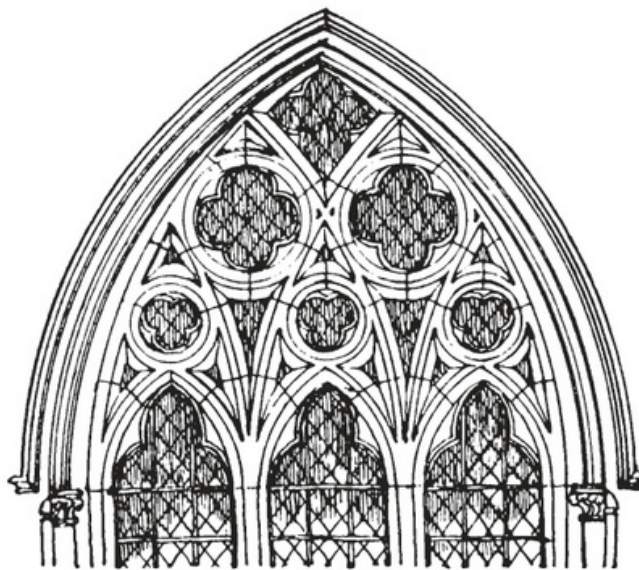


Libera Nos

for SSATTB voices

Christopher Churcher

(2024)



Composed in April 2024 for Merton College Choir.

First performance: 26/05/2024.

6th Psalm Antiphon at Matins on Trinity Sunday

Libera nos, salva nos, justifica nos,
O beata Trinitas!

Duration: c. 2'30"

Composer's Note

Libera Nos, commissioned for the Choir of Merton College, Oxford, sets the sixth Psalm Antiphon at Matins on Trinity Sunday. The music is shaped by the text's repeated supplication—"Free us, save us, defend us, O blessed Trinity"—a plea for deliverance from human frailty and sin.

The setting opens with luminous, mysterious chordal figures, gently swelling and receding as though emerging through smoke. From this stillness, high, intricate soprano lines begin to gather and coalesce, intensifying the sense of invocation. The music eventually returns to the soft, cloud-like harmonies of the opening, before rising toward a final, impassioned appeal: "O Beata Trinitas."

Christopher Churcher

pp sotto voce

Sustained and expressive ♩=68

6

p. *rit.* *mf*

S. a - ta O be - a - ta

p. *mf*

A. a - ta O be - a - ta

p. *cresc.* *mf*

a - ta O be - a - ta

cresc. *mp*

T. O be - a - ta

cresc. *mp*

O be - a - ta

cresc. *mp*

B. O be - a - ta

rit.

Pno.

A Tempo

10

p *poco* *pp* *p cresc.*

S. O be - a - ta Li -

A. O be - a - ta Tri - ni - tas

T. O be - a - ta Tri - ni - tas

B. O be - a - ta Tri - ni - tas

Pno.

A Tempo

14

f dim. *p* *pp*

S. be - ra nos,

A. Li - be - ra

T. Li - be - ra nos, Li - be - ra

B. Li - be - ra nos,

Pno.

18

mp cresc. *f*

S. sal - va

mp *f*

A. nos, sal va

mp cresc.

T. nos, sal - va

mf

B. nos, sal - va

mf

Pno.

22

mp *f* *mp* *p cresc.*

S. sal - va nos ju -

mf *f* *p* *cresc.*

A. sal - va nos, ju - sti -

mf *p* *p cresc.*

T. più nos, ju sti -

p cresc.

B. più nos, sal - va nos, ju - sti -

p cresc.

Pno.

26 *rit.* *f*

S. sti - fi - ca nos,

A. fi - ca nos,

T. fi - ca nos, ju - sti - fi - ca nos, *p*

B. fi - ca nos, ju - sti - fi - ca nos, *p*

Pno. *rit.*

30 *A Tempo* *p* *poco* *p cresc.*

S. O be - a - ta O be - a - ta

A. O be - a - ta O be - a - ta

T. O be - a - ta O be -

B. O be - a - ta O be -

Pno. *A Tempo*

molto rit.

34 *mp cresc.* *mf*

S. O be - a - ta O be - a -

A. *mp cresc.* *mf* O be - a -

T. *mf* a - ta O O be - a -

B. *mf* a - ta O O be - a -

Pno. *mf* a - ta O O be - a -

molto rit.

38 *A Tempo* *p cresc.* *f*

S. ta O be - a - ta Tri - ni - tas!

A. *p cresc.* *f* - ta O be - a - ta Tri - ni - tas!

T. *p cresc.* *f* ta O be - a - ta Tri - ni - tas!

B. *p cresc.* *f* ta O be - a - ta Tri - ni - tas!

Pno. *A Tempo*