

Christopher Beardsley

Between Heaven and Earth
for Counter Tenor, 2 Tenors and Bass

Between Heaven and Earth sets a single line of text from the Book of Revelations (19:17), *I saw an angel standing in the sun*, which is juxtaposed to a line of self-doubt, *And I looked up to the skies and wondered*. This text is set to musical material based on a short fragment taken from a 10/11th century trope setting of the *Gloria in excelsis Deo*, which is intoned by the first tenor at the start of the work.

Performance notes:

1. Opening. The rhythms shown in the Countertenor, Tenor 2 and Baritone ad libitum sections are approximate. The performers should whisper the words with normal speech rhythms. The Tenor 1 entry is arbitrary but should be at least 5 seconds after the start of the work.

2. Section A to B. To distinguish between the a of an and the a of angel the latter is printed thus, ā.
Dotted slurs indicate a slow and smooth transition between each note and phoneme or syllable.

3. Section C to D. Sun is sung in three contrasting ways.

- a) (su)n indicates singing sun with a short s and u thus holding the note on n with a nasal sound.
- b) Su – n indicates singing sun with a long u which ends on a nasal n.
- c) Su(n) indicates singing sun with a long u and with no n on the end.

Duration: approximately 4 minutes

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Slowly (♩=c48)
pp whispered*

Repeat ad lib.

Countertenor
I saw an an - gel stand - ing in the sun.
c5 secs.

Tenor 1

Tenor 2
pp whispered* Repeat ad lib.
I saw an an - gel stand - ing in the sun.

Baritone
pp whispered* Repeat ad lib.
I saw an an - gel stand - ing in the sun.

*See note 1

When Tenor 1 reaches pause finish repeated phrase then stop.

mf warm 3 3
I saw, —

mf warm 3 3
I saw, —

When Tenor 1 reaches pause finish repeated phrase then stop.

mf warm 3 3
I saw, —

mf warm 3 3
I saw, —

When Tenor 1 reaches pause finish repeated phrase then stop.

mf warm 3 3
I saw, —

A

p sustained 3
I saw, — a** - n ā - n - ge - l,

p sustained
I saw, — a** - n ā - n - ge - l, a - n ā -

p sustained 3
I saw, — a** - n ā - n - ge - l, a - n ā -

p sustained
I saw, — a** - n ā - n - ge - l,

** See note 2

(su)n_ (su)n su - n su - n su - n
 (su)n_ (su)n (su)n (su)n (su)n_

su(n) (su)n (su)n (su)n (su)n

(su)n (su)n_ su - n su - n su - - n

f *f* *f* *f non dim.*
 su(n) su(n) su(n) su(n) su(n)

f *f* *f* *f non dim.*
 su - n su - n su(n) su(n) su(n)

f *f* *f* *f non dim.*
 su - n su - - n su(n) su(n) su(n) su(n)

f *f* *f* *f non dim.*
 su(n) su(n) su(n) su(n) su(n) su(n)

D

molto *sub pp* **Double speed** ($\text{♩} = c120$) *f* *rhythmic*
 sun. And I looked

molto *ff* shout *f* *rhythmic*
 sun! And I looked up

molto *ff* shout *f* *rhythmic*
 sun! And I looked up to

molto *ff* shout *f* *rhythmic*
 sun! And I looked up to the

up to the skies looked up to the
 to the skies, up to the skies
 the skies, looked up to the skies
 skies, looked up to the skies

E Tempo primo, hesitant (♩=c48)

skies won - dered.
 won - dered.
 and
 and

F *p sustained*

saw an an - gel stan -
 saw an an - - -
 saw an an - gel
 saw an an - - - gel stan -

ding in the
_ gel stand - ing in the
stand - ing in the
- - ding in

G Suddenly faster (♩=c120)

sun, sun.
sun, sun.
sun, sun.
the sun, sun.

Half speed (♩=c60)

H

stand - ing
stand - ing
stand - ing and still
stand - ing and still

Tempo primo (♩=c48)

p still I won - dered.

p still I won - dered.

p I won - dered.

p I won - dered.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for four voices: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The score is written in common time (♩=c48) and begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The lyrics are "still I wondered." Each voice part features a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes. The Soprano and Alto parts have a half rest at the beginning of the phrase. The Tenor and Bass parts have a half note at the beginning. The music concludes with a fermata over the final note of each line.