

Sarah Lianne Lewis

Clericus et Nonna

for SSA a cappella

2013

Performance Note

1. The piece is measured by numbered systems, rather than numbered bars.
2. The time indication given throughout the piece indicated the amount of time to be spent on that section (marked by the rehearsal letters).

Programme Note

Clericus et Nonna has been written for Juice vocal ensemble as part of the Sound and Music Portfolio scheme. The text is taken from *The Cambridge Songs*, originally written and performed by the Goliards, poet-musicians of the 12th Century. The original texts have survived hundred of years, but the accompanying music has been lost due to the songs being suppressed by the Church in the 14th Century.

Clericus et Nonna not only has no music attached to it, but has also been 'blackened'. The text has been largely erased due to its explicit nature deemed inappropriate to the Augustine monks: A ballad of love between a monk and a nun, despite the nun's clear rejection of the amorous monk. The transliteration provided by Karl Breul has allowed space between the remaining letters and words to account for the missing text. The song has been structured in a way that reflects this space between words, and juxtaposes traditional harmonies with modern techniques.

What began as an exercise in setting medieval words with a modern interpretation quickly became a personal reaction to censorship - particularly with the current political backdrop of the controversial issue of internet censorship, and the continued government censorship of songs and books deemed 'inappropriate', be that through language, or political beliefs upheld in such texts.

The text of *Clericus et Nonna* emerges slowly through the piece, obscured by hissing - reminiscent of radio static - reflecting the censored portions of the poem, with the occasional and fragmented harmonies reminding us of the work's origin.

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for Juice vocal ensemble
Clericus et Nonna

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Freely
whisper
pp < **p** / **mf** / **f** > **pp** repeat, gradually crescendo, becoming more agitated...
 Sss...

Soprano I

Soprano II

Alto

A
 2
sim. (c.0'15")
whisper
pp < **p** > **pp** **p** **pp**
 Sss... Sss...

S.I.

pp *ord.* *mp*
 Ru - - - - - o - - - - - nu

S.II

sim.
whisper
pp < **p** > **pp** **p** **pp**
 Sss... Sss...

A.

Increasingly aggressive
whisper
pp < **p** > **pp** **p** **pp** *ord.* **p**
 Sss... Sss... gru - o - not

S.I.

fert. *whisper*
pp < **p** > **pp** **p** **pp** *ord.* **p**
 Sss... Sss... gru - o - not

S.II

*pp < **p** > **pp** *spoken evenly* *ord.* **p**
 Sss... *fert.* tempus adest gru - o -*

A.

B
 4
 (c.0'45")
spoken *forceful*
p < **f** >
 gras ...Quid... u(uh)... S(ah)...

S.I.

spoken *ord.* **mf** *pp*
 in ra ...Quid... ...Quid...

S.II

pp *spoken, harshly* *forceful*
p
 not ...ra... in ra Sss... -

A.

5 Agitated *p* < *f* *p* < *f* ord. *mp* *f* spoken, percussive (c.0'40")

S.I. S(ah)... S(ah)... i- am... go... t... t-t t-t-t- t...

S.II — S(ah)... S(ah)... S(ah)... i- am... go... t - t... ...mir... *f* spoken, percussive *p* ord.

A. ah... S(ah)... S(ah)... i- am... S(ah)... t-t t-t-t- t... bu...(booh) *f* spoken *p* < *f* percussive 3 3 ord. *pp* hold and colour with vib. and non. vib.

6 C *p* ord. softly, move hand quickly in front of mouth on note change and slowly away, repeat

S.I. i(ee) - ur, i - ur, i - ur, i - ur, i -

S.II softly, move hand quickly in front of mouth on note change and slowly away, repeat
i(ee) - ur, i - ur, i - ur, i - ur, i - ur, spoken, questioning *mf* spoken, answering *mf*

A. hotaris hotaris u -

7 *mp* *gliss.* *mf* percussive *mf* *hum pp* *pp* ord. *pp* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.*

S.I. - ur, m... ma

S.II i - - ur, m... ma

A. ni- ca... m... m... mel...

D Freely, seductively spoken (at different speeds) *mp* *stutter* *mf* spoken (c.0'30")

S.I. coro miner min nnn...des sss..ilue nu t-t- t... t-t- t... t-t- t... philomela kristes (sss...)

S.II spoken (at different speeds) *mp* ord. *mp* hold as long as breath
coro miner min nnn...des sss..ilue nu e - la

A. *f* ord. lightly, and hold as long as breath spoken *mp* sung hold as long as breath
nc! sing... wualde ca - no

E

9

whisper
pp *p* **pp** *pp* *p* **pp** *pp* *p* **pp** *pp* *p* **pp**

S.I. Sss... Sss... Sss... Sss...

S.II *whisper*
pp *p* **pp** *pp* *p* **pp** *pp* *p* **pp** ord.
 Sss... Sss... Sss... O...

A. *spoken*
 a cui me deuoui

10

S.I. O... *hum*
 mmm...

S.II *whispered*
 Sede a me... mi -

A. ord. *hum*
 O... a sa - gic thir mmm...

11

S.I. *f* *spoken - forceful, questioning, sounding out the word* (c.1'00")
 mmm... mmm... cuh!... cuh!... cuh...

S.II *f* *spoken - forceful, questioning, sounding out the word*
 no ra - dan... cuh!... cuh... cuh!...

A. *f* *spoken - forceful, questioning, sounding out the word*
 mmm... mmm... cuh!... cuh... cuh...

F

Softly, sweetly accel. Freely

12

mp ord. *f* *spoken* *rush through the words*
 nun - na cho - ro mi - ner da-bo ti - bi su-per hoc

S.II *mp* ord. *f* *spoken* *rush through the words*
 nun - na cho - ro mi - ner da-bo ti - bi su-per hoc

A. *mp* ord. *f* *spoken* *rush through the words*
 nun - na cho - ro mi - ner da-bo ti - bi su-per hoc