

# Magnificat Nunc Dimittis

for Women's, Girls' or Boys' Voices and Organ

*These two settings of the evening canticles were commissioned as part of the 2002 Magnificat Project, by the Women in Music Commissioning Fund, under the guidance of Professor June Boyce-Tillman.*

## *Programme and Performance notes.*

Working on the *Magnificat* coincided with waiting for the birth of my first grandchild; and this seemed to bring a particular poignancy and identification with the meaning of the words of both canticles. I have tried to give careful weight to the emphasis of where stresses fall, in interpreting the meaning of the verses. And I have been drawn to embodying some of the phrases with musical imagery.

The settings are for liturgical use, and are therefore traditional in form and technique. However I have used unexpected harmonic "pivot" chords to pull the vocal lines like magnets, into unexpected resolutions.

To assist in making the settings practical, the counterpoint is not difficult - and individual lines often work in canon; or have a melodic character that should make them easy to learn.

There are brief solo sections towards the end of both the *Magnificat* and the *Nunc Dimittis*. Where it is impossible to use a soloist, the line may be omitted, or sung by more than one voice.

Where I have written divisi parts, these too can be omitted if necessary; the harmonies are covered by the organ.

The most difficult section technically is "He hath scattered the proud". I hope that the catchy nature of each individual line will create a syncopated texture.

The Organ part is very simple, and I have tried to make the vocal parts of primary importance. The indications of registration on the organ are very approximate, and may be re-interpreted; I worked them out on the small organ of Harwich Parish Church. In general, I prefer a pure and flutey tone except in the louder passages, or where I have indicated "reeds" or mixtures.

# Nunc Dimittis for SSA Voices and Organ

q = 80  
Calm, timeless

Poco a poco dim in u en do.....?

Sop or Treble mf Lord, now let test thou thy servant, pp de

Sop or Treble pp Lord, pp de

Alto pp Lord, pp de

Organ I 4' flute pp pp

Ped. pp

Preview File Only

## A A little more movement q = 95

5

part in peace; mf ac

part in peace; mf ac

part in peace; mf ac

## A A little more movement II

pp

mf

16' diap

pp

q = 120

With Movement

B

9 *q = 100*

cor ding to thy word; For my  
 cor ding to thy word; For my  
 cor ding to thy word; For my

mf j f mp

Poco Allargando

C

eyes have seen thysal va tion,  
 eyes have seen thysal va tion,  
 eyes have seen thysal va tion,

f mp C I 8'4'2' +sw princ' p

22

==q = q =100 **Crescendo.....**

**D**

For thou hast prepared before the face of all people:

For thou hast prepared for all people:

For <sub>mp</sub> thou hast prepared for all people:

**Crescendo.....**

**D**

mp

16' Flute

mp

Preview File Only

28

**E**

**Attacca**

f To be a

f To be a

f be a

**E** **Attacca** **FULL**

ff

ff

ff