MORTEN LAURIDSEN

O Magnum Mysterium
Composer Morten Lauridsen is most noted for his seven vocal cycles – Les Chansons des Roses, Madrigali, Mid-Winter Songs, Cuatro Canciones, A Winter Come, Lux Aeterna and Nocturnes – and his series of a cappella motets which are regularly performed by distinguished ensembles and vocal artists throughout the world. His O magnum mysterium and Dirait-on have become two of the most performed and recorded compositions of recent years. ‘Lux Aeterna’, a CD of his compositions recorded by the Los Angeles Master Chorale conducted by Paul Salamunovich, was a Grammy nominee in 1998. Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943) is Professor of Composition at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music and served as Composer-in-Residence of the Los Angeles Master Chorale from 1995–2001. Additional information regarding Morten Lauridsen may be found at mortenlauridsen.com.

A compact disc of Morten Lauridsen’s music has also been recorded by Polyphony and the Britten Sinfonia, under the direction of Stephen Layton, for Hyperion (CDA 67449, www.hyperion-records.co.uk).

‘Layton and company have here produced the finest I’ve heard among several excellent collections of Lauridsen’s work. None are quite as exquisitely nuanced or sung with such glowing vocal sheen as this. Clear and shimmering sound, plus Hyperion’s usual complete and user-friendly booklet, make it all the more attractive. No committed choral fan or singer will ever regret letting Lauridsen into his life’.

(American Record Guide)
O magnum mysterium

O great mystery, and wondrous sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in their manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

MORTEN LAURIDSEN

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rit. a tempo

- mira-bi-le sa-cra-men-tum,

Poco più mosso \( (\dot{=} \text{c. 76}) \)

\( p \)

O mag-num mys-te-ri-um, O

O mag-num mys-te-ri-um, O

Poco più mosso \( (\dot{=} \text{c. 76}) \)

\( p \)

O mag-num mys-te-ri-um, O

O mag-num mys-te-ri-um, O
rit. a tempo

A different Dominum natum, jacentem in praesepio!

rit. a tempo

Tempo primo

Beata Virgo, cujus visceras meru-

Tempo primo

Virgo, cujus visceras meru-

Virgo, cujus visceras meru-

Virgo, cujus visceras meru-

rit. Tempo primo

Virgo, cujus visceras meru-

rit. Tempo primo
poco rit.  a tempo

-e runt, Be-a-ta Vir-go, por-ta-re Do-mi-num
cresc.

-e runt, Vir-go, por-ta-re Do-mi-num
cresc.

-e runt, Vir-go, por-ta-re Do-mi-num
cresc.

poco rit.  a tempo

molto rit.  a tempo, poco deliberamente
cresc.

Chris-tum.  Al-le-lu-ia!  Al-le-lu-ia!  Al-le-
S.1 (cresc.)

Chris-tum.  O  mag-num mys-te-ri-um,
S.2 (cresc.)

Chris-tum.  O  mag-num mys-te-ri-um,
A. (cresc.)

Chris-tum.  O  mag-num mys-te-ri-um,
T. (cresc.)

Chris-tum.  O  mag-num mys-te-ri-um,
B. (cresc.)
molto rit.  a tempo, poco deliberamente
cresc.
Poco rit.
a tempo

66

molto rit.

Al - le - lu - - - ia!

- ia!

Al - le -

- lu - - - - - ia!

a tempo

molto rit.

(Meno mosso

70

pp

ppp

Al - le - lu - - - ia!

Al - le - lu - - - ia!

Al - le - lu - - - ia!

pp

ppp

pp

ppp

pp

ppp

pp

ppp

Al - le - lu - - - ia!

(Meno mosso

(Duration: 5'45")
The Faber Choral Signature Series introduces a wealth of new or recently written choral music to choirs in search of fresh repertoire. The series draws in a rich diversity of living composers and includes both lighter and more challenging contemporary works, offering a thrilling array of varied styles.

For centuries, composers have been inspired by the beautiful ‘O magnum mysterium’ text depicting the birth of the new-born King amongst the lowly animals and shepherds. This affirmation of God’s grace to the meek and the adoration of the Blessed Virgin are celebrated in my setting through a quiet song of profound inner joy.

Morten Lauridsen

occupies a permanent place in the standard vocal repertoire of the 20th century. In 2007, he was the recipient of the National Medal of Arts, ‘for his composition of radiant choral works combining musical beauty, power and spiritual depth that have thrilled audiences worldwide’.

The National Medal of Arts is the highest award given to artists and arts patrons by the United States.