

# **Motet for 6 altos/mezzos**

**music by Christopher Bailey**

original poem by Elizabeth Adams

splintering of poem by Christopher Bailey

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## notes:

**Poems:** The piece is based on an original poem by Elizabeth Adams. This poem never appears explicitly in the work; instead, its phonemes are distributed among the 3 pairs of voices as 3 different poems, in 3 "language types": quasi-latin, quasi-old-(or-middle)-english, and a sort of multi-lingual hybrid. The 3 derived poems appear below, along with the original.

**Accentuation:** according to the would-be lingual type, should be exaggerated--especially the quasi-old-english. Typical examples of such accentuation can be found on any CD of Medieval or Renaissance English vocal music recorded by one of today's fine vocal ensembles. Examples include the Hilliard Ensemble's "Draw on Sweet Night: English madrigals" (EMI Records CDC 7 49197 2), particularly the duet "Fire and Lightning" (Thomas Morley), and the same ensemble's "Sumer is Icumen In" (Harmonia Mundi 901154). Roll the r's.

**Spatialization:** The 3 pairs of vocalists should be fairly far apart from one another: the listener/viewer should be able to hear/see from which pair a given tone is being emitted.

**Other:** Tempo marking is approximate, and can be somewhat flexible. Dynamics are not marked; treat the score as you would any medieval/Renaissance work whose notation lacks expression marks. Some breaths are notated, either as rests or as commas.

**Finding pitches:** (a hint) While individual vocal lines leap around quite a bit in this piece, there is an underlying structure of quite smooth voice-leading. Therefore, if you are making a difficult leap from pitch X to Y, look and listen to the other parts, one of whom is bound to have a pitch S a step away from Y. Sing X, hear S, move to Y.

original poem:

If there are branches  
they clatter

no leaves between limbs  
to muffle with rustling  
none of that--

only chattering through empty air

If leaves,  
scuttling

no undulation, lifting, flapping  
no silver undersides before rain  
no rain

if puddles, ice

curled, brittle, leaves scrape  
scatter over frozen ground

But very few trees

Mostly, blankness

Windy minimalism

The horizontal not relentless because  
the cold forgets that snow falls

Who'd have thought

by the barren land  
in fertile oceans

plankton bloom

quasi-latin:

eranches eclateh nolibis  
tuma rasnavat  
o chateru  
ete, ete, liscali  
dulah, lila,  
o siva sah  
oreh oreh fads ees crilis  
sateh ono ena ut veris  
o staneh  
imimalis oriza areleh les  
ees ores atafa uva  
eba en la infeh osha latin

quasi-old-english:

If their bra, thee roves tween leem,  
fool we eeth sling na thanly.  
ring thoo empir.  
if ivating,  
no antchion eating fee,  
nolary, ander eeds beef--  
nohne.  
Eep lald breet leave,  
scrape car rare froze ground boot.  
few tree, motly blakess;  
Oondy nim, the hontal nat.  
lent, ebb, kause,  
the cold forget tha snalls;  
hood hath aht.  
Be the theren:  
land irtah, oh ansbank bloom.

multi-lingual:

If there are eater,  
nole eve, between eeth.  
rasnava, oh chateru;  
empir, liscali.  
adulation:  
lift, ping!  
o siva,  
ya, be noreh adit ees.  
eh ka,  
o enradu veris, o unimilis;  
o tanat.  
relentless, ese, o res, orehs.  
that snow falls,  
all ooh thought by barren.  
theba land, irta.

# Motet

for 6 altos/mezzos

ur-poem by Elizabeth Adams

Christopher Bailey

♩ = 112

quasi-latin  
eh rah ncheh\_s  
eh rah ncheh\_s

quasi-old-english  
I f theh\_r theh\_r brah\_\_\_\_  
I f theh\_r theh\_r brah\_\_\_\_

multi-lingual  
I f theh\_r ah r  
I f theh\_r ah r

latin  
eh clah teh no li  
eh clah teh -bi

english  
thee  
thee roh vs

multi  
ee teh\_r  
ee teh\_r nole eve

Musical score for measures 11-16. The score is divided into three parts: Latin, English, and Multi. The Latin part has two staves with lyrics: -bi s tu mah and (-i) s tu mah. The English part has two staves with lyrics: twee n, lee m foo l, we ee and lee m leem ee. The Multi part has two staves with lyrics: twee n and bee twee n eeth. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 and back to 4/4.

Musical score for measures 17-22. The score is divided into three parts: Latin, English, and Multi. The Latin part has two staves with lyrics: rah snah vah t oh chah teh and snah vah t oh chah teh. The English part has two staves with lyrics: (ee) th and (ee) th sling nah thah nly. The Multi part has two staves with lyrics: rah snah vah and oh chah. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4 and back to 3/4.

22

latin  
(eh) ru eh teh eh

(eh) ru eh- eh teh

english  
ri ng thoo eh m-pi r eh m

multi  
eh mpir

-teh ru eh mpir

3

29

latin  
teh li scah li

english  
i f i vah ti ng no ah  
pi r i vah ti ng no

multi  
li scah li ah du leh  
ah du leh

35

latin  
du leh li lah

35  
lah Oh si vah

english  
(ah) n-tion ee ting fee noh lah

35  
ah n-tion ee ting noh lah

multi  
(eh) -shun li ft pi ng Oh si vah

35  
(eh) shun pi ng Oh si vah

4

41

latin  
(ah) , sah , oh reh , oh reh

41  
ah , sah , oh reh , oh reh

english  
-ry, ah ndeh r eeds bee f noh n

41  
-ry, ah ndeh r eeds bee f noh n

multi  
yah bee noh reh

41  
yah bee noh reh

U, 5

latin  
cree lee s  
fah ds, ee ss, cree lee s

english  
ee p lah ld, bree t lee v screh  
lah ld, bree t lee v screh

multi  
(eh) ah di t ee s eh  
(eh) ah di t ee u s eh

U,

latin  
sah teh oh voh eh nah ut veh ri s  
sah teh oh voh eh nah ut

english  
(eh) pe, kah r reh r froh ze grond boot  
eh kah r reh r froh ze grond boot

multi  
eh kah oh eh nrah du veh ri s  
eh kah oh eh nrah du ee s

latin  
veh\_ri\_s Oh stah - ah\_neh

veh\_ri\_s i mi mah lis

english  
blah keh\_ss oo ndy ni m

few tree moh\_tly blah

multi  
oh oo i

oo ni mi lis

latin  
oh ri zah

ah reh leh leh

english  
the haw ntah l nah t

haw ntahl nah t leh nt

multi  
tah nah t reh leh nt leh\_ss

Oh eh seh

latin  
 (eh) ss, ii ss oh reh s oh

english  
 eh b kau s  
 the koh ld foh geh t the koh ld foh

multi  
 oh , reh s oh  
 oh , reh s

latin  
 ah\_tah\_fah oo vah

english  
 (oh)\_res oo vah  
 thah snah\_lls hood hah th  
 (oh)\_get thah snah\_lls hood hah th ah\_t

multi  
 (oh)\_res ah oo thaw  
 o\_res that snow falls ah ll thaw

Musical score for measures 86-91. The score is divided into Latin and English parts, each with two staves. The Latin part includes vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The English part includes vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The tempo and meter change from 3/4 to 3/2, then to 4/4, 6/4, and 5/4. The lyrics are: (ah) (ah) theh bee (aw) t bah i bah reh n (aw) t eh n

Musical score for measures 92-97. The score is divided into Latin and English parts, each with two staves. The Latin part includes vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The English part includes vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The tempo and meter change from 3/4 to 3/2, then to 4/4, 3/4, and 2/4. The lyrics are: eh ba h lah ah feh eh bah ,eh n lah i nfeh theh reh n theh i rtah theh bah lah nd

98

latin

(eh) oh shah lah ti n

(eh) oh lah ti n

english

oh ah nspah nk

ah nspah nk

multi

104

latin

104

english

bloo m

bloo m

multi

104

104