# Composition Portfolio

Aaron Woodmore
August 2023

## 1. Dance in Eb Major Op. 1

The ideas contained in this piece came about from cherry-picking ideas from improvisation sessions at the piano. The piece was submitted as a school assignment, however, it was intended to be played within grander atmospheres.

## 2. Mass in Ab Major Op. 2

This mass in Ab major was written for a vocal trio of solo voices. A bass, tenor and a mezzo-soprano (written as soprano in the score for simplicity's sake). The mass is split into 4 sections: Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus and Benedictus, and Agnus Dei. Each section's text is reflected in the mood of the piece, both harmonically and melodically.

## 3. God so Loved the World Op. 3

God so Loved the World was written for the 2023 SOUNZ choral competition (27th of June). The piece was dedicated to my partner (at the time). The piece was written for unaccompanied SATB (with splits in all parts except the Sops).

## 4. Wie in Adam alle sterben Op. 4

Wie in Adam alle sterben is a Basso Liede written for a solo bass voice with a klavier accompaniment. The text is from 1 Corinthians 22-23, this text spoke strongly to me as it speaks about one's faith allowing us to follow in Christ's resurrection. To me, this text reminded me strongly of a family figure who died in 2022 and his constant faith in Christ.

## 5. Yearning Op. 5

Yearning is a piece written from a time and place of grief. To deal with the recent breakup, I stumbled upon the text as if it were a divine gift. I set some of the words in their English translation as the words spoke to me and I felt I would do a disservice to Danish without knowing it further.

The slurs in this piece are being used moreso to indicate lines in the text, as opposed to general phrase marks. Having said that, the general phrases tend to follow the text anyway.

## 6. Ode to Kāpiti College Op. 6

This composition takes the motto of Kāpiti College and interweaves it into one of Horace's poems.

# Dance in Eb Major

in the style of a Waltz









# Dance in Eb Major - Opus 1

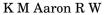
## 1 Overview

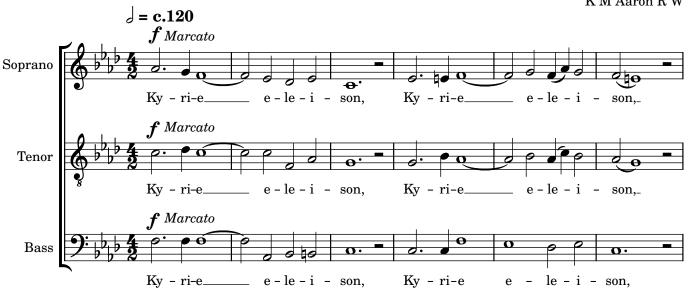
The Dance follows the pattern of having the main idea and then exploring ideas around it. The main theme is:

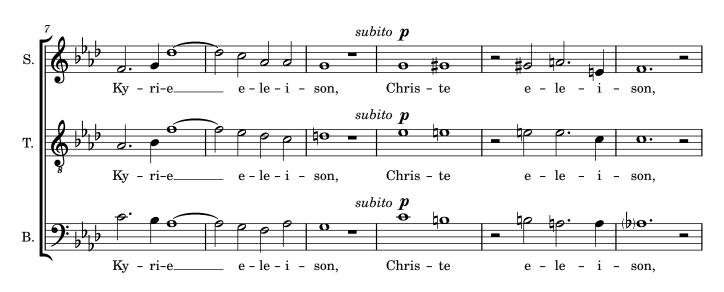


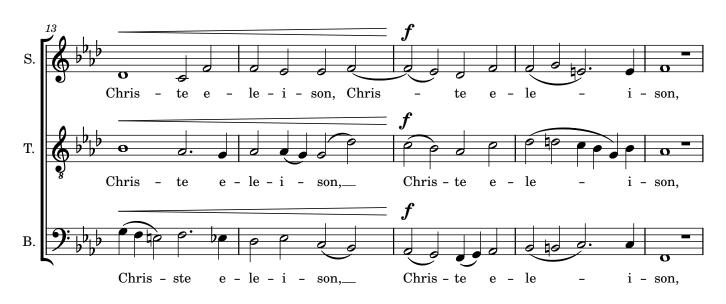
The theme follows the I-V chord pattern, with a harmonic shift every two bars. The idea is a four bar phrase. The piece explores different elaborations on the idea following the phrase and very rarely differs from the I-V pattern (with the exception being at b.42)

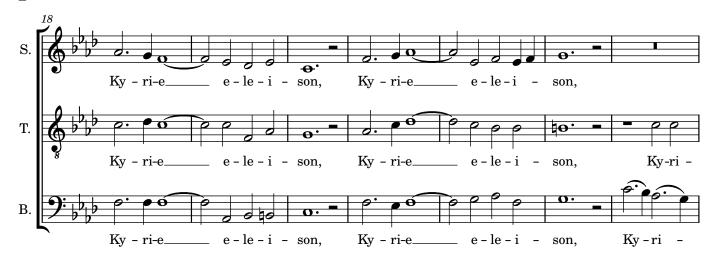
# Kyrie



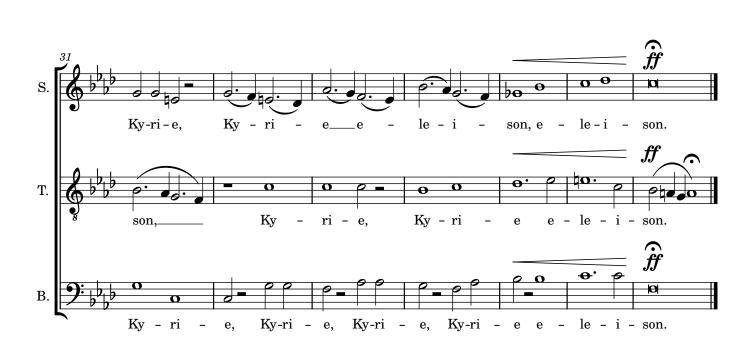






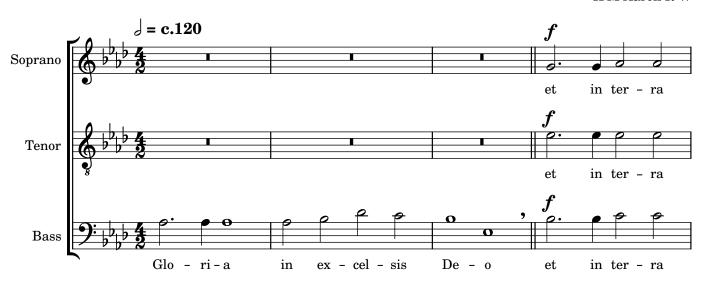


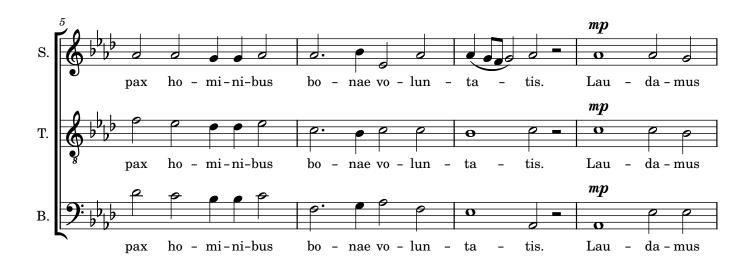


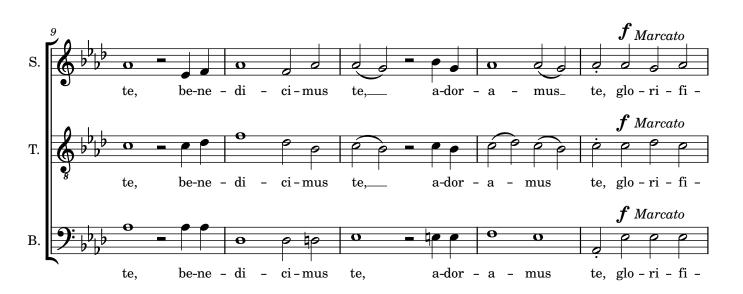


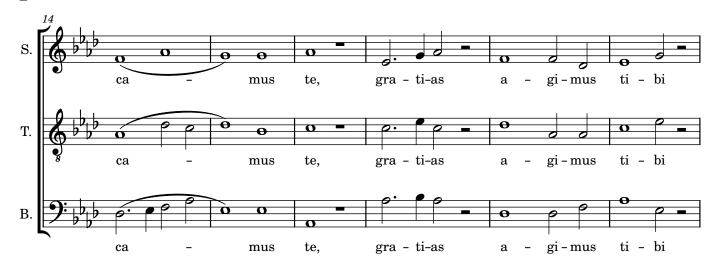
# Gloria

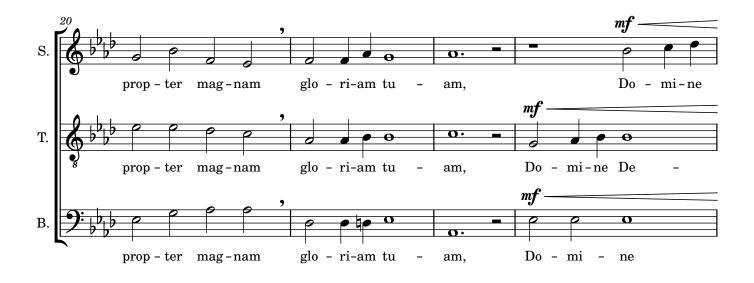
K M Aaron R W

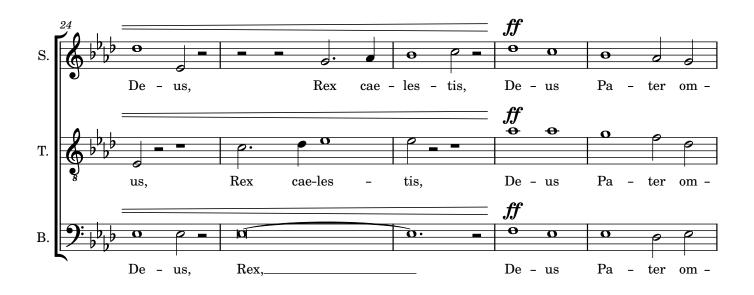










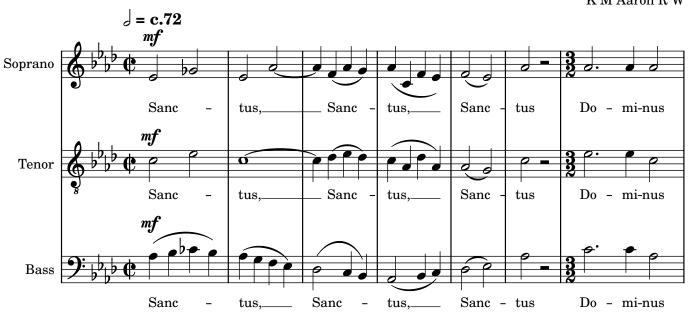


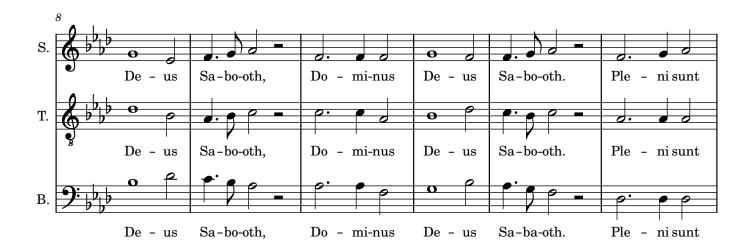


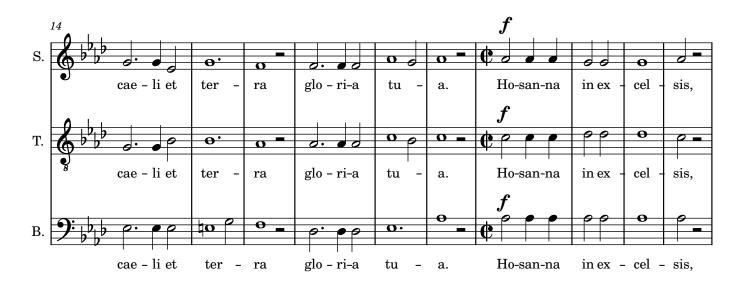


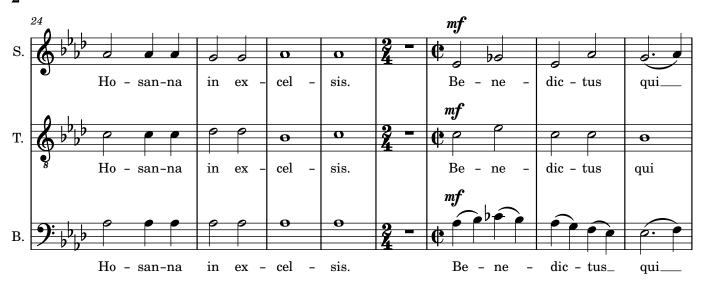
# Sanctus & Benedictus

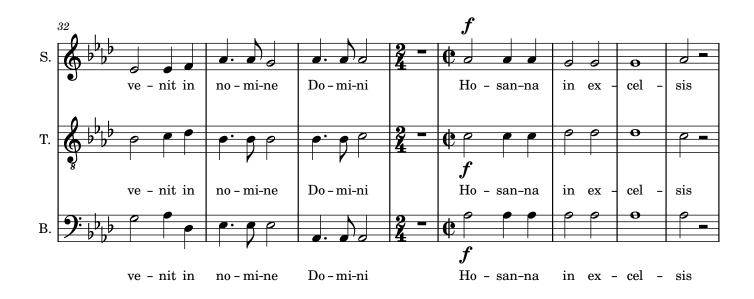
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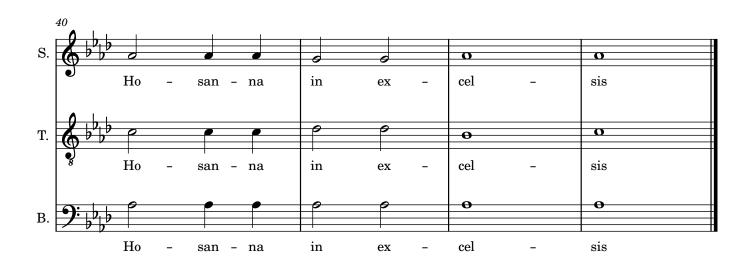






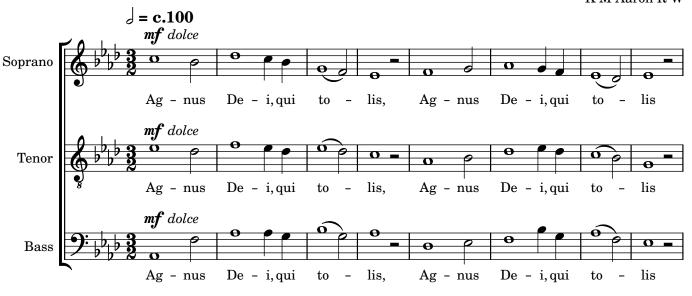


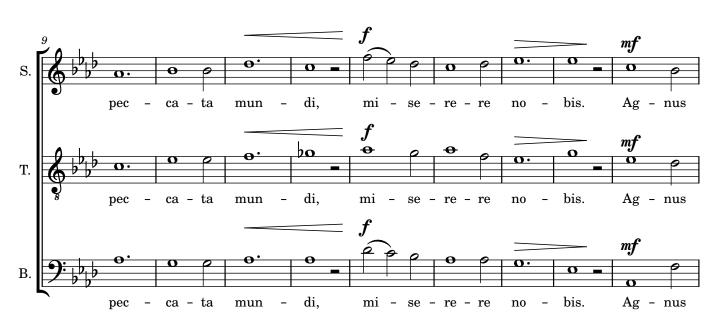


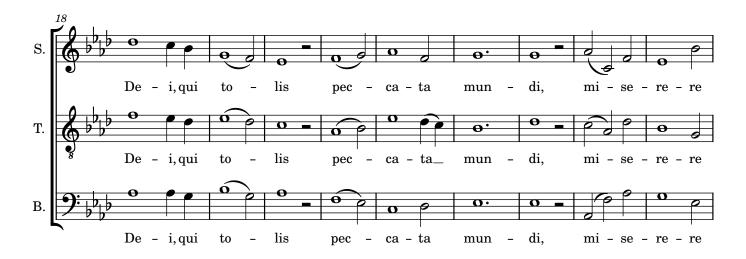


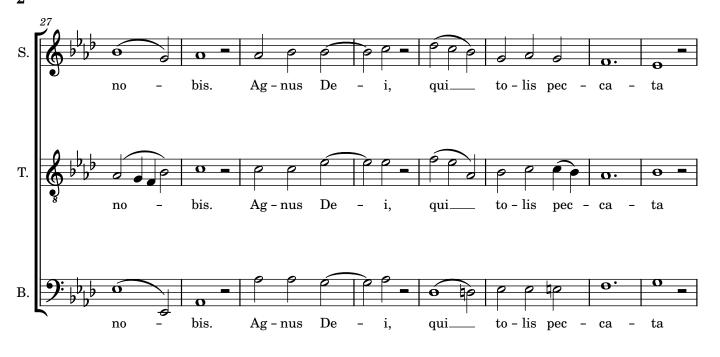
# Agnus Dei

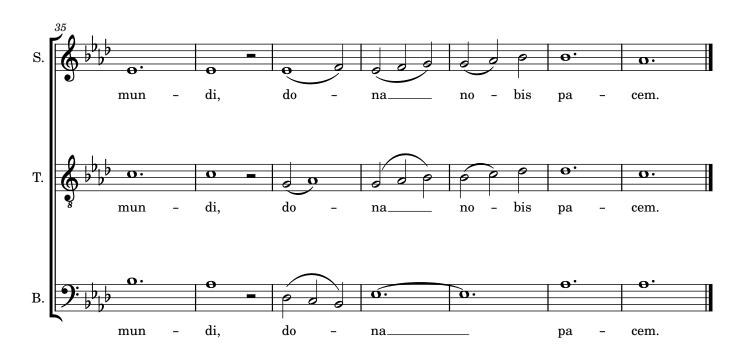
K M Aaron R W











# Mass in Ab Major - Opus 2

## 2 Overview

The mass is comprised of four parts: Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus and Benedictus, Agnus Dei.

## 3 Kyrie

Kyrie eleisonLord have mercyChriste eleisonChrist have mercyKyrie eleisonLord have mercy

The Kyrie's text asks for mercy from both the Lord and Christ, this is reflected by the harmony with the Kyrie being the only part of the mass in F minor (the relative minor).

## 3.1 Harmonic Interest

In many places in the Kyrie, the final chord in a cadence will be an open fifth. The two Kyrie's both sit in an F minor territory. In the piece there are two places that explore the harmony, this being the very end of the piece and the Christe. In the Christe, after a forte section comes our first piano, on top of that it goes to an E major chord, completely out of the blue and briefly for a couple of chords explores an A minor sound, but then returns back to an F minor sound. This is representative of the unease one feels when in a place where one is pleading for mercy.

## 3.2 The final Kyrie

The final Kyrie starts with polyphony starting with the bass with the main idea — a descending phrase moving with a rhythm of dotted-minim crotchet.

Figure 1: Main idea of the polyphonic section



The tenor voice comes in the second idea.

Figure 2: Second idea of the polyphonic section



Finally the Soprano voice comes in with the final idea, rhythmically the slowest of the three to contrast with the other voices.

Figure 3: Third idea of the polyphonic section



At the end, the Kyrie has a Neapolitan chord leading into a perfect cadence. The final chord also uses the Picardy third.

## 4 Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis Laudamus te. benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam, Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens

Domine Fili Unigenite, Jesu Christe, Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis; qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu  $solus\ Altissimus$ Jesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu: in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will We praise you, We bless you We adore you, We glorify you, We give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God almighty Father Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of The Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, recieve our prayer you are seated at the right hand of the Father have mercy on us For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

The Gloria starts with the bass singing the first line (in a priestly fashion). The Gloria doesn't often stray away from Ab major and is the longest part of the mass.



#### Sanctus and Benedictus 5

Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth, Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua Hosanna in excelsis Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini Hosanna in excelsis

Holy Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory Hosanna in the highest Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord Hosanna in the highest

The Sanctus starts with a massive shift going from Ab major to Cb major and back within the first two bars. In between the Benedictus and Sanctus is the first Hosanna, the music is then repeated with the different words.



Figure 5: Beginning of Sanctus

# 6 Agnus Dei

Agnus dei, qui tolis peccata mundi Agnus dei, qui tolis peccata mundi Miserere nobis Agnus dei, qui tolis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem Lamb of god, who takes away the sins of the world

Lamb of god, who takes away the sins of the world

Have mercy upon us

Have mercy upon us

Lamb of god, who takes away the sins of the
world, grant us peace

The Agnus Dei in comparison to the rest of the mass is supposed to be the sweetest, with the expression *dolce* right at the beginning.

Figure 6: Beginning of Agnus Dei

Ag - nus De - i, qui

Mf dolce

Ag - nus De - i, qui

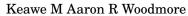
Mf dolce

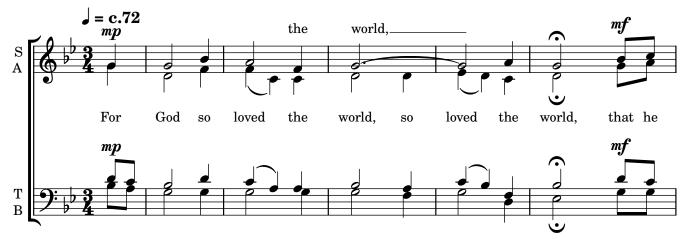
Ag - nus De - i, qui

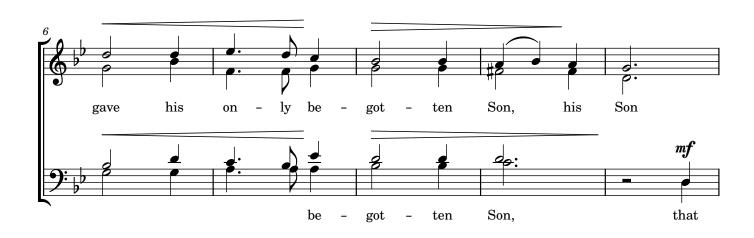
# God so loved the world

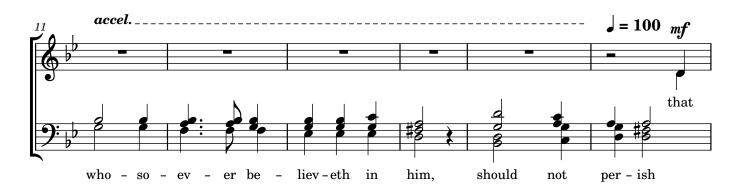
dedicated to my partner, Kayla Wilson

John 3:16

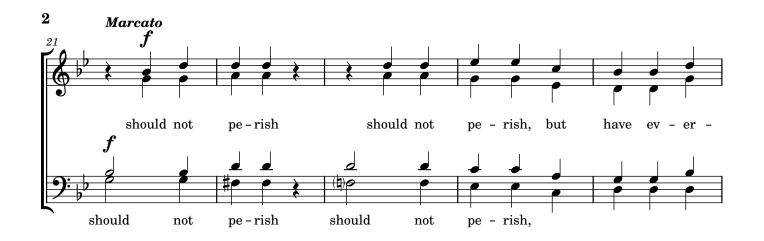


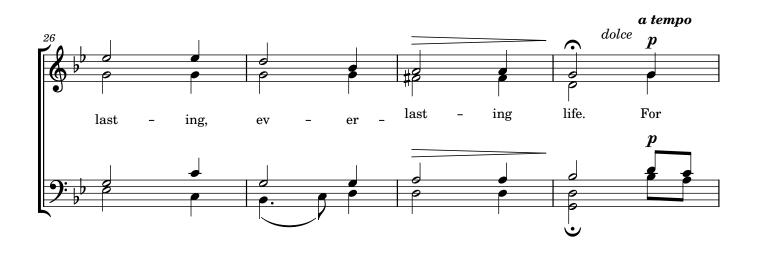


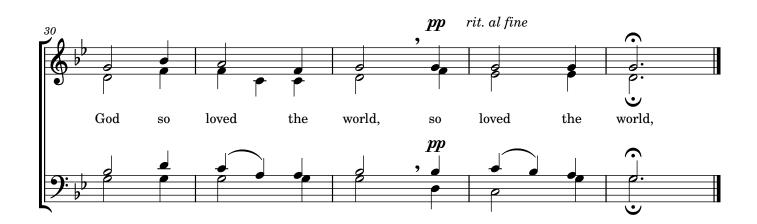












# God so Loved the World - $Opus \ 3$

# 7 Overview

This piece was the first work I ever had dedicated to someone. Originally it wasn't written with them in mind, yet as I continued to polish the piece, I couldn't associate anyone more with it.

# Wie in Adam alle sterben

gewidmet Grandad Brian

K M Aaron R Woodmore 1 Korinther 15:21-22 **= 112** Basso Denn nach - dem der Tod  $kam\,durch$ Klavier cresc.\_ В. Mensch-en, ein kommt die er-steh-ung en K. (cresc.)\_ B. den To ten durch Mensch - en. ein von en K. AgitatoВ. Wie A in dam le al ben, ster K.



# Wie in Adam alle sterben - Opus 4

Denn nachdem der Tod kam durch einen Menschen,

kommt auch die Auferstehung von den Toten For as in Adam all die, durch einen Menschen. even so in Christ shall a

Wie in Adam alle sterben,

so werden auch in Christus alle zum Leben kommen.

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

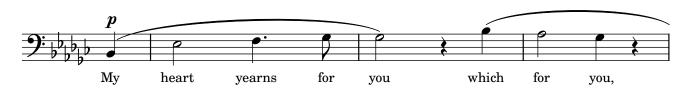
## 8 Overview

This work is written for a basso profundo voice, the range is 2 octaves from a high C# to a low C#. This piece stays in F# minor for the entire piece

# Yearning

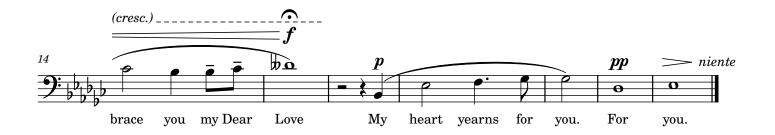
Anonymous Danish Author

K M Leilani Aaron R Woodmore





# molto rit. 9 mp I bow to your ap - proach To em - brace, to em - brace, to em -



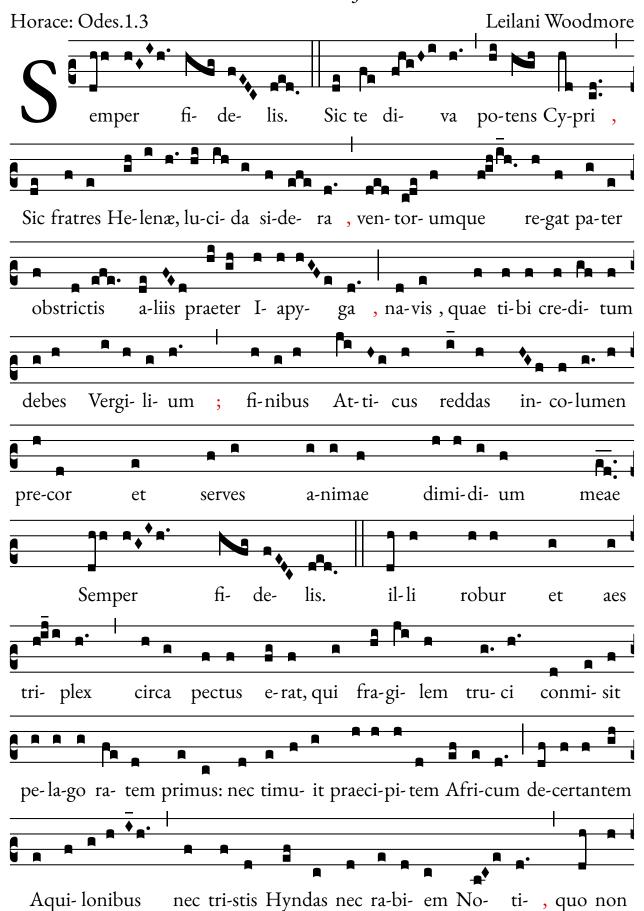
# Yearning - Opus 5

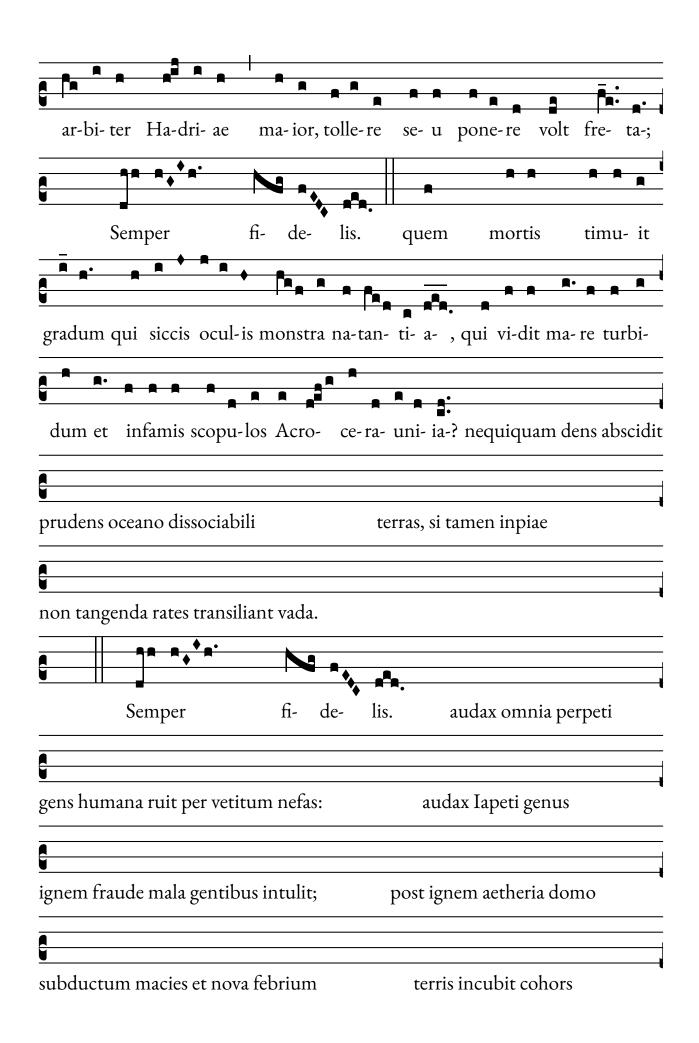
## 9 Overview

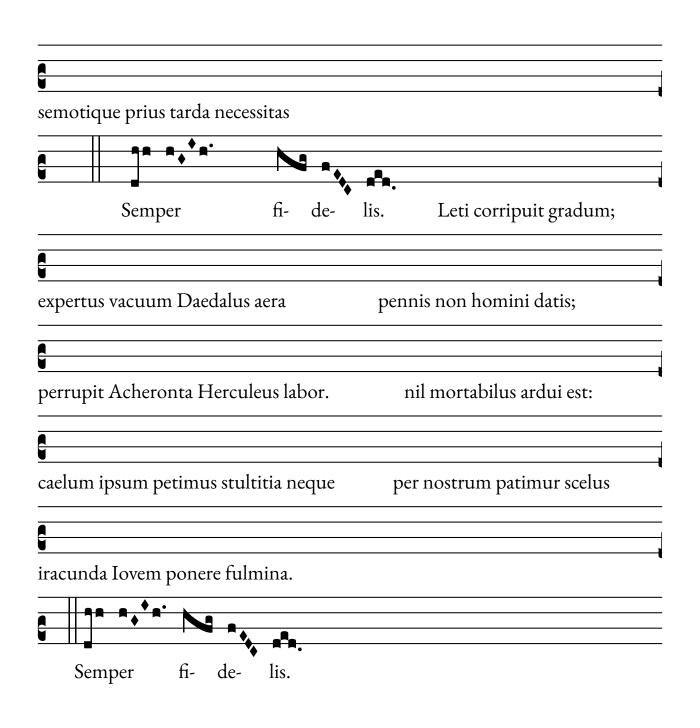
Yearning is the first work written for solo voice with no accompaniment. It was written shortly after the breakup and was just written to try to convey how I was feeling and experiencing life via the only way I could, music. Every part of the piece means something very intentional and special to me.

# Ode to Kāpiti College

à l'école de ma femme







# Ode to Kāpiti College - Opus 6

## Semper Fidelis

Sic te diva potens Cypri, sic fratres Helenae, lucida sidera, ventorumque regat pater obstrictis aliis praeter Iapyga,

navis, quae tibi creditum debes Vergilium; finibus Atticis reddas incolumem precor et serves animae dimidium meae.

illi robur et aes triplex circa pectus erat, qui fragilem truci conmisit pelago ratem primus: nec timuit praecipitem Africum

decertantem Aquilonibus nec tristis Hyadas nec rabiem Noti, quo non arbiter Hadriae maior, tollere seu ponere volt freta;

quem mortis timuit gradum qui siccis oculis monstra natantia, qui vidit mare turbidum et infamis scopulos Acroceraunia?

nequiquam deus abscidit prudens oceano dissociabili terras, si tamen inpiae non tangenda rates transiliunt vada.

audax omnia perpeti gens humana ruit per vetitum nefas: audax Iapeti genus ignem fraude mala gentibus intulit;

post ignem aetheria domo subductum macies et nova febrium terris incubuit cohors semotique prius tarda necessitas

Leti corripuit gradum; expertus vacuum Daedalus aera pennis non homini datis; perrupit Acheronta Herculeus labor.

nil mortalibus ardui est: caelum ipsum petimus stultitia neque per nostrum patimur scelus iracunda Iovem ponere fulmina.

### Always Faithful

Ship, you that owe us Virgil, entrusted to your care, may the mighty Goddess of Cyprus, and Helen's brothers, those shining stars, and the patriarch of the winds, tying off all others except the south-easter,

so guide your course, that you bring him back safe to us from the borders of Athens, I pray, and save half of my own soul.

That man had solid oak and three layers of brass around his breast, whoever first committed a fragile vessel to the savage ocean. He did not fear the headlong wind from Africa,

contending with the northerlies, nor the stormy stars

of the Hyades, nor the rage of the south wind, than which none is more potent either to rouse or to calm the seas of the Adriatic.

In what form could approaching death daunt him, if he could look dry-eyed on the monsters of the waters and the rocks of Epirus?

A prudent God separated the lands with an estranging ocean in vain, if sacrilegious ships still sail the sea-roads that should stay untouched.

Bold enough to dare anything, the human race rushes on through the forbidden and unholy; boldly, Prometheus, the son of Iapetus, brought fire to mankind through a wicked fraud.

After fire was brought down from the halls of heaven, starvation and a new troop of sicknesses lay upon the lands, and the doom of a death once distant

hastened its slow approach. Daedalus ventured on the empty air with wings not meant for man, Hercules by his labour burst through Acheron.

For mortals, nothing is too hard: we seek the heavens themselves in our stupidity, and because of our crimes will not allow Jove to lay down the thuderbolts of his wrath.

## 10 Overview

Ode to Kāpiti College was the first work written specifically for something other than a person. This work is also the first piece I've ever written using Neumes

Mahalo nui to all those who kept me afloat but supported me too