

Ralph Woodward

Hodie

PROMOTIONAL COPY
for reading only

Christmas motet
for unaccompanied mixed voices

Hodie was first performed in the chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge, by the Fairhaven Singers, conducted by the composer, on 10 December 2016.

Composer's note

For some reason I had the idea that it could be effective to finish a choral piece with a version of the gorgeous *Pieds-en-l'air*, from the *Capriol Suite* by Peter Warlock (1894–1930), which is itself an arrangement of a dance by Jehan Tabourot (1519–95). Some time later I noticed the similarity between that theme and the plainsong melody *Hodie Christus natus est*, which Britten uses to begin and end his *Ceremony of Carols*; in that moment this piece was born.

The plainsong theme is announced, initially in fragmentary form but becoming more fully textured, and then combined in counterpoint with the *Pieds-en-l'air* melody.

Text

Hodie Christus natus est:
hodie Salvator apparuit;
hodie in terra canunt Angeli,
laetantur Archangeli:
hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:
Alleluia.

Translation

Today Christ is born:
today the Saviour has appeared;
today the angels sing on earth,
and the archangels rejoice:
today the righteous exult, saying:
Alleluia.

Hodie

Words: Magnificat Antiphon for Christmas Day

Music: RALPH WOODWARD (b. 1971),
devised from anonymous medieval plainsong,
& the melody Pieds-en-l'air by Jehan Tabourot (1519–95),
harmonised by Peter Warlock (1894–1930)

Atmospheric ♩ = 112

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

PLAINSONG

p

pp

na - tus_ est:

Ho - di - e Chri - - stus na - tus_ est:_____

5

ho - di - e Sal - va - tor ap - pa - ru - it:_____

p

pp

ap - pa - ru - it:

9

ho - di - e in ter - ra ca - - nunt an - ge - li,_____

p

pp

an - ge -

13

p

- li, _____ lae - tan - tur arch-an - ge - li: _____

pp

_____ arch - an - ge - li:

17

S. *mf* _____ *mf* _____

ho - di - e _____ ex - sul - - tant ju - sti, _____

A. *mf* _____ *mf* _____

ho - di - e _____ ex - sul - - tant ju - sti, _____

T. *mf* _____ *mf* _____ *f* _____

ho - di - e _____ ex - sul - - tant ju - sti, _____ di -

B. *mf* _____ *mf* _____ *f* _____

ho - di - e _____ ex - sul - - tant ju - sti, _____ di -

Kbd * *mf* _____ *mf* _____ *f* _____

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* Keyboard reduction for rehearsal only.

21 *f* *p*

di - cen - tes, di - cen - - tes,

f *p* Solo (optional) *mp freely*

di - cen - tes, di - cen - - tes al - le - lu - - - ia, ___

p

- cen - tes, di - cen - tes, di - cen - tes, ___ *mm*

p

- cen - tes, di - cen - tes, di - cen - tes, ___ *mm*

mp

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26 *f* *p*

di - cen - - tes ___ *mm*

Tutti *f* *p*

di - cen - - tes ___ *mm*

f *p*

di - cen - - tes ___ *mm*

f Solo (optional) *mp freely*

di - cen - - tes al - le - lu - - - ia, ___

f

mp

PIEDS-EN-L'AIR (from Capriol)

30 *mf* *pp* *p dolce* (don't try to compete with the Tenors)

al - le - lu - ia. Ho - di - e Chri - stus na - tus est:

mf *pp* *p dolce*

al - le - lu - ia. Ho - di - e Chri - stus na - - tus est:

PLAINSONG

mf *pp* *mf dolce*

al - le - lu - ia. Ho - di - e Chri - - stus na - tus est:

Tutti *mf* *pp* *p dolce*

al - le - lu - ia. Ho - di - e Chri - stus na - - tus est: ho -

mf *pp* *p dolce*

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34 *più f*

ho - di - e Sal - va - tor ap - pa - ru - it: ho - di - e in ter - ra

più f

ho - di - e Sal - va - tor ap - pa - ru - it: ho - di - e ca -

più f

ho - di - e Sal - va - tor ap - pa - ru - it: ho - di - e in ter - ra ca -

ho - di - e *più f*

- di - e Sal - va - tor ap - pa - ru - it: ho - di - e

più f