



Malcolm Hill

(1944 -)

O Souls

Text from

Tasso

for Soprano and

Chamber Organ

(or 3 Viols)

mj331.3 composed 2013

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Five Vocal Symphonies to fit between Six Motets by Don Carlo Gesualdo

In a letter to Gesualdo of 10 December 1592 the poet Torquato Tasso (1544-95) wrote that he had sent over 40 texts for Gesualdo's sole use in madrigals, following the composer's specific requirements. Six days later he sent another five sonnets. Although they were great friends, Gesualdo set only a few of these texts. The friendship abruptly stopped when Tasso produced two poems which seemed to side with the murdered couple.

Malcolm Hill divided each of two Tasso sonnets *In Morte di due Nobilissimi Amanti* and *Sullo Stresso Argomento* in two, to give the freely-translated text for four vocal symphonies to be sung between the first five Gesualdo motets. While the motets should be performed unaccompanied, the vocal lines of the symphonies are accompanied by either chamber organ or three viols.

Gesualdo : *Deus refugium*

Solo vocal symphony : *Weep, O Graces*

Gesualdo : *Reminiscere miserationum*

Duo vocal symphony : *Weep, Erato*

Gesualdo : *Ave, dulcissima Maria* [SATTB]

Ave, dulcissima Maria, vera spes et vita, dulce refrigerium! O Maria, flos virginum, ora pro nobis Jesum.

Hail, most gentle Mary, true hope and light, cool fount of refreshment! O Mary, flower among virgins, pray for us.

Solo vocal symphony : ***O souls***

O souls, lovely and beautiful, who suffered bitter torment in dying, whether death, or love, or fortune, or heaven, that united you, nothing divides or displaces you anymore. But like mingled rays or torches of immortal glory in the third season of the moon, you already blaze, and the heavenly stars shine more brightly because of your gentle longing. No, whenever sin is between two courteous lovers, Heaven is garlanded by that sin, made more lovely by your romantic dishonour!

Gesualdo : *Gaudeamus omnes*

Solo vocal symphony : *Let whoever blames you*

Gesualdo : *Peccantem me*

Solo vocal symphony : *Nobles are exempt*

Gesualdo : *Ave sanctissima* [SSATTB]

O Souls

Between Gesualdo's *Ave, dulciss.* and *Gaudeamus*
for Soprano and Chamber Organ (or 3 Viols)

Tasso

Malcolm Hill
2013 mj331.3

♩ = 58

The first system of the musical score. It features a Soprano line and a Chamber Organ (or 3 Viols) line. The Soprano line is in 3/4 time, starting with a whole rest for the first four measures, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The Chamber Organ line is in 3/4 time, starting with a half note G3, a quarter note A3, and a half note B3. The organ part includes a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both featuring various intervals and accidentals. The organ part is marked with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic.

The second system of the musical score, starting at measure 9. The Soprano line begins with a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The lyrics "O souls love-ly and beau-ti - ful, who suf-fered bit - ter" are written below the notes. The Chamber Organ line continues with a half note G3, a quarter note A3, and a half note B3. The organ part includes a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both featuring various intervals and accidentals. The organ part is marked with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic.

The third system of the musical score, starting at measure 15. The Soprano line begins with a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The lyrics "tor-ment in dy - ing, whe-ther death, or" are written below the notes. The Chamber Organ line continues with a half note G3, a quarter note A3, and a half note B3. The organ part includes a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both featuring various intervals and accidentals. The organ part is marked with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic.

The fourth system of the musical score, starting at measure 21. The Soprano line begins with a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The lyrics "love, or for - tune, or hea - ven that u - ni-ted you, no" are written below the notes. The Chamber Organ line continues with a half note G3, a quarter note A3, and a half note B3. The organ part includes a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both featuring various intervals and accidentals. The organ part is marked with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic.

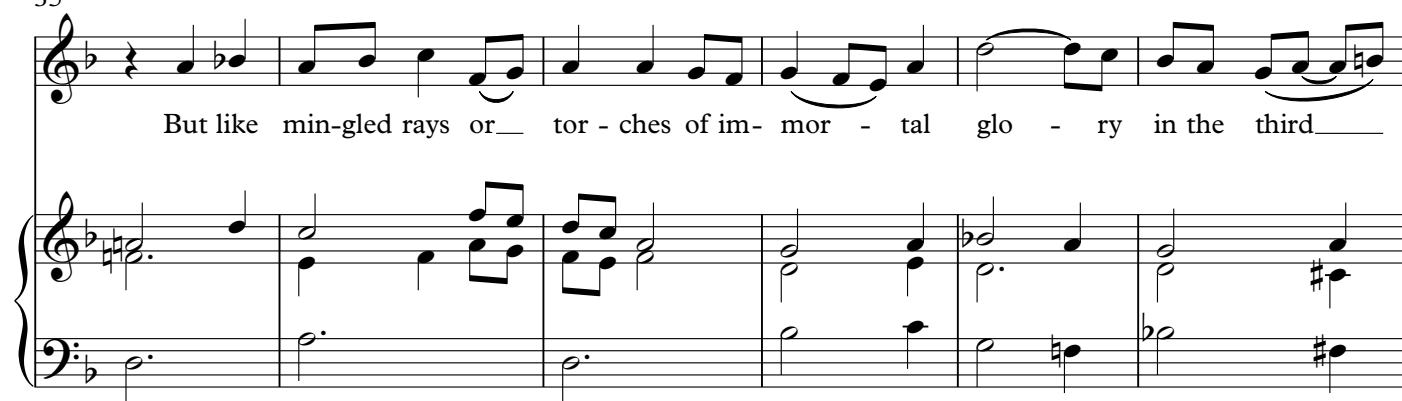
28



- thing di- vides__ or dis - pla - ces you a-ny more.

This system contains measures 28 through 34. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, and G3. There are two measures of rest. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with eighth and quarter notes, and a treble line with chords and moving lines.

35



But like min-gled rays or__ tor - ches of im- mor - tal glo - ry in the third__

This system contains measures 35 through 40. The vocal line starts with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, and G3. There are two measures of rest. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady bass line and a treble line with chords and moving lines.

41



sea-son of the moon,__ you al - rea - dy__

This system contains measures 41 through 46. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, and G3. There are two measures of rest. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady bass line and a treble line with chords and moving lines.

47



blaze, and the heav - en-ly stars_ shine__ more bright - ly

This system contains measures 47 through 52. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, and G3. There are two measures of rest. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady bass line and a treble line with chords and moving lines.

53

be- cause_ of your gen - tle long - - - ing.

59

No, when-e - ver sin is between two_cour-teous lo - vers,

65

Hea- ven____ is gar-land-ed by____ that sin,____

71

made more love - ly by your ro - man - tic dis-hon - - - nour!