RICE UNIVERSITY

CANTAIA
From the Revelation to John
for
S.A.T.B. Soloists, Chorus, and Orchestra
by
RICHARD F. HOBSON, JR.

A THESIS SUBMITTED
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

MASTER OF MUSIC

APPROVED, THESIS COMMITTEE:

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Abstract
Cantata, from the Revelation to John
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Cantata from the Revelation to John is a musical composition for S.A.T.B. vocal soloists, S.A.T.B. chorus, and orchestra. The text is adapted by the composer from the Revelation to John, Revised Standard version. Condensed into verse form, the text follows the complete story-sequence of the original prose. The orchestration calls for flute I, flute II/piccolo, flute III/alto flute, flute IV/ bass flute, oboe I, oboe II/English horn, two B-flat clarinets, bass clarinet, two bassoons, four horns in F, three B-flat trumpets, two trombones, tuba, timpani, and percussion requiring four players (xylophone, vibraphone, bells, chimes, triangle, wind chimes, suspended cymbal, temple blocks, guiro, five tom-toms, bass drum, and tam-tam).

Solo harpsichord is situated in the front of the orchestra, piano and celesta (one player), are in the back next to the percussion. The vocal soloists stand in front of the orchestra and the chorus is seated throughout performance between the strings and woodwinds. The string section consists of six each of first and second violins, eight violas, four celli, and two double basses. A complete set-up chart is included with the score.

The majority of the composition is realized in traditional notation, but incorporating some examples of graphic notation and contemporary musical symbols. Stylistically non-tonal materials prevail, but sound resources from the Renaissance to the twentieth century appear as both formal reference points and in the pursuit of text painting. Cantata from the Revelation to John is approximately sixteen to seventeen minutes in duration.
CANTATA

FROM THE REVELATION TO JOHN

1978

RICHARD HOBSON
flute I
flute II/ piccolo
flute III/ alto flute
flute IV/ bass flute
oboe I
oboe II/ English horn
B♭ clarinet I
B♭ clarinet II
B♭ bass clarinet
bassoon I
bassoon II
horn in F I
II
III
IV
trumpet in B♭ I
II
III
trombone I
II
tuba
timpani
[xylophone, vibraphone
bells, chimes, triangle
wind chimes, suspended cymbal
temple blocks, gong
5 tom-toms, bass drum, tam-tam
harp/piccolo
piano/celesta
soloists
S. A. T. B.
chorus
S. A. T. B., 7 per section
seated in orchestra
violin I (6)
violin II (6)
viola (6)
cello (4)
double bass (2)
The text is adapted from the Revelation to John, revised standard version.

Blessed is he who reads aloud
The words of the prophecy,
Blessed are those who hear,
Who keep what is written therein.
Behold, he is
Coming with the clouds
Firstborn of the dead
Ruler of kings on earth.
The time is near.

Angel of Ephesus
I know your works, your toil, but
Love you abandoned,
Remember them
From what you have fallen.

Angel of Smyrna
I know your tribulation and poverty, the
Slander of false Jews,
He who conquers shall not meet
The second death.

Angel of Pergamum
Where you dwell, Satan’s throne is.
Reap them.

Angel of Thyatira
I know your works, your love, your
Patient endurance. To he who conquers,
I will give the morning star.

Angel of Sardis
You have the name of life, yet you are dead,
Awake, lest you not know the hour I come.

Angel of Philadelphia
With but little power you have kept my word,
Hold fast, so none may steal your crown.

Angel of Laodicea
I know your works; you are neither
Cold nor hot! You say that you are rich,
Not knowing your poverty,
He who has an ear let him hear what the
Spirit says to the churches.
He who has an ear let him hear the spirit,
I looked,
And lo,
In heaven an open door!
Voice like a trumpet
Shouting that must come,
At once in the spirit I saw
A throne in heaven,
He who sat there
Like Jasper and carbuncle.
Around the throne,
Emerald rainbow,
Twenty-four elders in white garments with
Crowns of gold.
From the throne,
Lightening, voices, thunder,
Seven torches of fire, the
Seven spirits of God.
I saw in the right hand of Him who was
Seated on the throne
A scroll with seven seals.
An angel proclaims,
‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and
Break its seals?’
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive
Power, wealth,
Wisdom, might,
Honor, glory, and blessing.

When the Lamb opened one of the seven seals,
I saw a white horse
Its rider with crown and bow
Went out conquering and to conquer.

Second seal,
Red horse
Rider with great sword
Took peace from the earth.

Third seal!
Black horse!
Rider with balance in hand.
Famine.

Fourth seal,
Behold a pale horse
Its rider’s name was Death.
Come to kill with sword, pestilence, and
Wild beasts of the earth.
The fifth seal opened, I saw
The souls of those slain for the
Word of God,
Hating until their number should be
Complete.
When the Lamb opened the sixth seal
Behold a great earthquake.
The kings of the earth hid
From the wrath of the Lamb.

The seventh seal
Openeth, Silence.
Seven angels with trumpets
In the presence of God.
Six trumpets blown
Hail, fire, the earth consumed a third.
Many men died.
Sun, moon, and stars struck,
Their light darkened a third.
Out of the bottomless pit,
Smoke, Locusts.
Men will seek death and not find it.
In heaven loud voices saying,
“The kingdom of the world has become the
Kingdom of our Lord!”

In heaven
Woman clothed with the sun,
Moon at her feet,
Crowned with twelve stars.
Behold a great dragon,
Waiting to devour the child of the woman.

In heaven,
War.
The dragon conquered
By the blood of the Lamb.
Rose.
Dragon.
The beast.
Deception.
Six hundred sixty-six.

On Mount Zion stood,
The Lamb,
The hundred forty-four thousand,
The book of life.
Seven churches, seven souls,
Seven angels, seven plagues.
Four corners,
Sees, rivers, fountains become blood.
Soared by the sun,
Cursing God,
Men gnashing their tongues in anguish.
Lo, I am coming like a thief.
Awake, lest you not know the hour I come.
Armageddon, Fallen is Babylon!
It is done.
Twenty-four elders in white garments,
A great multitude crying,
“The lord our God almighty reigns!”
I saw a new heaven and a new earth.
Jewels, gold, honor, glory,
Jerusalem.
The morning star.
Gradually  Slow down the triplets