

TOTALITY

for SATB choir



Music and lyrics by *Melissa Dunphy*

2024
6 min

*Commissioned by BBC Radio 3, VOCES8 and The King's Singers
and first performed by them, at the BBC Proms on 21 July 2024 at the Royal Albert Hall, London.
Commission supported by Gregory Peterson and The King's Singers Global Foundation.*

BBC
RADIO



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There are no more surprises,
no more miracles,
nothing matters anymore,
for I have seen midnight at high noon
and felt indescribable awe.
My heart races,
my breath comes in gasps,
stars dance in my staring eyes,
wild thoughts chatter through my mind,
and a strange and ancient laughter pours out of my mouth.

O great Sol,
giver of light and sight—
now a dark round abyss
crowned in a cold swirling mist:
Have we angered you?
Are we being judged?
Do you warn of some new disaster—
a war or famine,
or a terrible storm of our own creation?
Will we survive the destruction and learn to start anew?
There is nothing left now but delirious wonder.
Arrogance wanes at this proof of our inconsequence.
I am one with our ancestors and those yet to come,
and I face our shared fate with an untamed elation.

Cover image by Matt Dunphy



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Adagio $\text{♩} = c.69$

pp dark, resonant *p* pleading

Soprano
 O great Sol, O

Alto
pp dark, resonant *p* pleading
 O great Sol, O

Tenor
pp dark, resonant *p*
 O great Sol, O great Sol,

Bass
pp dark, resonant *p*
 O great Sol, O great Sol,

5

S.
 great Sol, great Sol. solo

A.
 great Sol, O great Sol.
pleading

T.
 O great Sol, great Sol, great Sol.
pleading

B.
 O great Sol, O great Sol.
pleading

O great Sol, great Sol, great Sol.

A Poco piu mosso ♩=c.72

tutti mp warm *p*

S. No more mir-a- cles, noth- ing mat - ters

A. No more mi-ra- cles, noth- ing mat - ters

T. There are no more sur- pris - es, no more mir-a- cles, noth - ing

B. There are no more sur- pris - es, no more mi-ra- cles, noth - ing

16 *mp*

S. a - ny - more, there are no more sur- pris - es, no more

A. a - ny - more. there are no more sur- pris - es, no more mir-a- cles,

T. mat - ters an-y- more, there are no more sur- pris - es, no more mir-a- cles,

B. mat- ters, noth - ing mat- ters, no more, no more sur- pris - es, no more

23 *mf*

S. mir-a- cles, for I have seen mid - night at high

A. noth - ing mat - ters an-y- more, for I have seen mid - night,

T. noth - ing mat - ters an-y - more. I have seen mid - night,

B. mir-a- cles, noth - ing mat- ters an-y- more. I have seen mid - night at

accel. *mf*

29

S. noon and felt in-des - cri - ba-ble awe. My heart

A. mid-night at noon, and felt in-de - scri-ba-ble awe. My heart

T. mid-night at noon, and felt in-de- scri-ba-ble awe.

B. high noon, and felt in-de-scri - ba-ble awe. My

B With energy $\text{♩} = c.92$

36

S. *mf* rac-es, my breath comes in gasps, stars dance in my star - ing

A. *mf* rac-es, my breath comes in gasps, stars dance, dance in my

T. *mf* My heart rac - es, stars dance in my star - ing

B. *mf* heart rac-es, my breath comes in gasps, stars dance in my

43

S. eyes, wild thoughts chat-ter through my mind,

A. star - ing eyes, wild thoughts chat-ter through my mind,

T. eyes, wild thoughts chat-ter

B. star - ing eyes, wild

47

p

S. and a strange and an-cient laugh - ter pours

A. — and a strange and an-cient laugh - ter pours

T. through my mind, and laugh - ter pours

B. thoughts chat-ter through my mind, and laugh - ter pours

52

C

f exultant

S. out of my mouth. Sol___ la sol la sol la sol la sol la sol, sol

A. out of my mouth. Great Sol,___ O great

T. out of my mouth. O great___ Sol,___ O great

B. out. O great Sol,___ O great

59

S. *la sol la sol la sol la sol la sol la sol, great Sol, O*

A. *Sol, O great Sol, O*

T. *Sol, O great Sol, O*

B. *Sol, great Sol, great Sol,*

D *p*

66

S. *great Sol, now a dark round a-byss:*

A. *great Sol, now a dark round a-byss:*

T. *now a dark round a-byss, crowned in a cold swirl-ing*

B. *now a dark round a-byss, crowned in a cold swirl-ing*

D *p*

72

f

S. Have we an-gered you? O great Sol:

f

A. Have we an-gered you? Giv - er of

f

A. Have we an-gered you? Have we an-gered you? Giv - er of

f

T. 8 mist, Have we an-gered you? Have we an - gered you? Giv-er of

f

T. 8 mist, Have we an - gered you? Giv - er of

f

B. mist, Have we an-gered you? Have we an-gered you?

78

S. — Are we be-ing judged?—

light and sight:— Are we be-ing judged, — judged?—

A. light and sight:— Are we be-ing judged? Are we be-ing judged?—

mf

T. 8 light_ and sight: Are we be-ing judged?— Do you

mf

B. Giv er of light:— Are we be - ing judged? Do you

85 **E**

S. *mf* A war or

A. *mf* A war or

T. warn of some new dis- as- ter— a war, a war, a war or

B. warn of some new dis- as - ter— a war or

91

S. fam-ine, or a ter-ri-ble storm of our own cre-

A. fam-ine, or a ter-ri-ble storm, a ter-ri-ble storm

T. fam-ine, or a ter-ri-ble, ter-ri-ble storm

B. fam-ine, or a ter-ri-ble storm, a ter-ri-ble storm of our

97

S. a-tion? *f* O great Sol,

A. of our own cre-a-tion? *f* O great Sol,

T. of our own cre-a-tion? *f* O great Sol,

B. own cre-a-tion. *f* O great Sol,

104

S. will we sur - vive the de - struc - tion and learn to start...

A. — will we learn to start...

T. will we sur - vive the de - struc - tion and learn to start a - new, *p*

B. will we sur - vive, great Sol?

110 **F** *Meno mosso* ♩=c.72

S. *p* There is noth - ing left now _____ but de - li - ri - ous won - der.

A. *p* There is noth - ing left now _____ but de - li - ri - ous won - der.

T. — start a -

B. *p* There is noth - ing now, noth - ing left but

115

S. Ar - ro - gance wanes, _____ ar - ro - gance wanes

A. Ar - ro - gance wanes, _____ ar - ro - gance

T. new? _____ Ar - ro - gance wanes, _____

B. won - der. Ar - ro - gance wanes, wanes _____

120

S. at this proof of our in - con - se - quence. O

A. wanes at this proof of our in - con - se - quence. O

T. at this proof of our in - con - se - quence.

B. at this proof of our in - con - se - quence. O,

poco rit. **G** Andante ♩=c.88

126 *mf*

S. I am one with our an - ces - tors, and those yet to

A. *mf* I am one with our an - ces - tors, and those yet to

T. *mf* I am one with our an - ces - tors, and those yet to

B. *mf* I am one, with our an - ces - tors, one with

133

S. come, and I face our shared fate with an un - tamed, an un - tamed e -

A. come, and I face our shared fate with an un - tamed, an un - tamed...

T. come, I face our fate with an un - tamed e -

B. those yet to come. I face our fate with an un - tamed e -

poco rit.

141 *f*

S. la - tion, an un - tamed e - la -

A. *f*
Sol la sol la sol la sol la sol la, si la si la si la si la si la si la si,

T. *f*
la - tion, an un - tamed... Sol la sol la sol la

B. *f*
la - tion, e - la -

146

S. tion. O great Sol,

A. si la si la si la si la si la si la sol. O great

T. sol la sol la sol la fa, O great

B. tion. O great Sol, O

152 *rit.* *ff*

S. great Sol, *ff* great Sol, great Sol.

A. Sol, O great Sol, great Sol.

T. Sol, great Sol, great Sol.

B. great O great great Sol, great Sol.

great Sol, O great, great Sol, great Sol.