

Malcolm Dedman

**Christmas Cantata -
"The Word was Made Flesh"**

**for Flute (doubling Treble Recorder),
Percussion, Male Speaker, Choir (SATB)
(with soprano solo from choir) and Organ**

1975 rev. 2010

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Duration: 18 mins 45 secs

Christmas Cantata - "The Word was Made Flesh"

Instrumental and Vocal forces:

Flute, doubling Treble Recorder
Percussion: 2 Bongos, Conga Drum, Taiko Drum *,
Clash Cymbals, Large Suspended Cymbal, Windchimes.
Male Speaker
Choir (SATB) with Soprano Solo from choir
Organ

* Alternatives to Taiko Drum may be found, for example, African Drum, deep Conga Drum, or any drum of medium pitch. A Side Drum without snares could be used if nothing else is available.

Performance Notes

Male Speaker: This part is written on a 5-line staff when relative pitch is required (indicated by cross noteheads) and on a 1-line staff when the speaker is required to speak at a natural pace and pitch. It is preferred that the speaker uses a public address system to ensure his voice is heard clearly.

Choir: Much use is made of speech rhythms and the notation for this is cross noteheads (indicating relative pitches) on a 5-line staff, as for the speaker part.

Members of the choir are also required to clap rhythms. It is suggested that the choir is split into two, but only using those members with a good sense of rhythm. Clapping is notated on two 1-line staves for groups 1 & 2. It is also suggested that the two groups are located on each side of the performing area.

Flute/Recorder: It is permissible for the flautist to play flute throughout should difficulty be found with playing the treble recorder.

Words are from the Jerusalem Bible (original version).

Texts used are: John 1: 1-5, 9-14; Luke 1: 26-38; Matthew 1: 23; Luke 1: 46-55;
Luke 2: 1-20 and Matthew 3: 3.

First performed in December 1975 by the Birmingham Festival Choral Society, conducted by Jeremy Patterson, who commissioned this work. It was performed in St. Martin's in the Bull Ring, Birmingham, United Kingdom.

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1. Prelude

Jerusalem Bible

Malcolm Dedman

Moderato, ♩ = 92

Treble Recorder

Organ

Note: Registrations for organ are indicated. Use these where possible, but when not available, use a close match.

Tr. Rec.

Tr. Rec.

Org.

8' Hautbois (oboe)

Tr. Rec.

Org.

Tr. Rec.

Org.

Tr. Rec. poco rit. 40
To Flute

Org.

Musical score for Tr. Rec. and Org. measures 35-40. Tr. Rec. starts at *mp*, changes to *p*, and ends at *f*. Org. has triplets and a *f* dynamic.

2. The Word

John 1: 1-5, 9-14

Moderato, ♩ = 92

2 Bongos and Conga Drum, with sticks

Percussion 5

(Conga Drum on bottom line)

Male Speaker

In the be - gin-ning was the Word: the Word was with God and the

Musical score for Percussion and Male Speaker measures 1-5. Percussion starts at *mf* and changes to *p*. Male Speaker has triplets.

2 Bongos and Conga Drum 10

Perc.

Male Spk

Word was God. He was with God in the be-gin-ning. Through Him all

Musical score for Percussion and Male Speaker measures 6-10. Percussion starts at *p* and changes to *mf*. Male Speaker has triplets.

2 Bongos and Conga Drum

Perc.

Male Spk

things came to be, not one thing had its be-ing but through Him. All that came to be had life in.

Musical score for Percussion and Male Speaker measures 11-14. Percussion starts at *mf* and changes to *f*. Male Speaker has triplets.

15
2 Bongos and Conga Drum

Perc.

S. Spoken *mf*

T. Spoken *mf*

Male Spk

— Him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that dark-ness

Musical score for Percussion, Soprano, Tenor, and Male Speaker measures 15-19. Percussion starts at *f* and changes to *mf*. Male Speaker has triplets.

Fl. *f* 3 5 20 3 5

Perc. 2 Bongos and Conga Drum *f* *mf* *f* *mf* 3 3

S. Nasal tone *f* *mf* God. e

A. Nasal tone *mf* a

T. Nasal tone *mf* *f* *mf* i o

B. *mf* He was wi - th Go -

Male Spk *Spoken naturally* *f* could not o - ver - power. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and He was coming

Org. Diaphason, 8' + 4' *mf*

25

Fl. *mf* *p*

Perc. 2 Bongos and Conga Drum *mf* *p* non trem.

S. *p* Spoken *p* He was wi - th Go - d i - n the

A. *p* *mf* whispered The Word

T. *p* Spoken *p* He was wi - th Go - d

B. *p* d i - n the be - gi - n - ning.

Male Spk *mf* into the world. He was in the world that had its being through Him, and the world did not know Him.

Org.

30

Fl. *mf* *p* *pp*

Perc. 2 Bongos and Conga Drum *pp*

S. *pp* be - gi - n - ning. The Word was the true light. Spoken *pp*

A. *pp* was with God. The Word was the true

T. *pp* i - n the be - gi - n - ning. The Word was the true light. whispered *mf*

B. *mf* *pp* Spoken *pp* The Word was with God. The Word was the true

Male Spk *p* He came to His own domain and His own people did not accept Him. But to all who did accept Him

Meno mosso, ♩ = 72 35

40

Fl.

Perc. **2 Bongos and Conga Drum**

S. *Ordinary tone* *p* Ah Ah *pp* The Word was

A. *Ordinary tone* *p* light. Ah Ah *pp* The Word

T. *Ordinary tone* *p* Ah Ah Ah Ah *pp*

B. light. Ah *pp*

Male Spk He gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the Name of Him who was born not out of human stock, or urge of the flesh, or will of man, but of God Himself. *pp* The Word was



Perc. **2 Bongos and Conga Drum** 45 *pp* With hands

S. made flesh,

A. was made flesh,

T.

B.

Male Spk made fle - sh, *pp* He lived a-mong us, and we saw His

Org. *pp* 8' Rohr Flute + 1 3/5' Tierce 6

50

Fl. *pp* *f* *p* *pp* *p* *mf*

Perc. 2 Bongos and Conga Drum *p* *pp* *mf*

Male Spk *p* *mf*

glo - ry, the glo-ry that is His as the on - ly Son of the Fa-ther,

Org. *p*

To Treble Recorder

55

Fl. *f*

Perc. 2 Bongos and Conga Drum *p* *mf* To Taiko Drum, or similar

Male Spk full of grace and truth.

Org. *mf* *f* *ff* + 3 Rank Mixtures

Ped. Couple to manual (No Ped stop) *ff*

3. The Annunciation

Luke 1: 26-38

Allegro, ♩ = 144

Percussion Taiko Drum (see page 2 for alternatives) trem. *f* *p* 5

Clapping, Group 1 *f*

Clapping, Group 2 *f*

Taiko Drum

Perc. *f* *p* **10**

Cl. 1 *p*

Cl. 2 *p*

Male Spk *f*
In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God

15

Tr. Rec. *mf* 3

Taiko Drum *mf* *p*

Perc.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Male Spk
to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David;

20 **Allegretto, ♩ = 108**

Tr. Rec.

Taiko Drum *f*

Perc. *f*

S. *f* Re-joyce_ so

A. *f* Re-joyce_ so

T. *f* Re - joyce

B. *f* Re - joyce

Cl. 1 *f*

Cl. 2 *f*

Male Spk *mf*
and the virgin's name was Mary.

25 *ff* Allegro, ♩ = 144

S. high - ly fa - voured! The Lord_ is with you.

A. high - ly fa - voured! The Lord_ is with you.

T. _so high - ly fa - voured! The Lord_ is with you.

B. _so high - ly fa - voured! The Lord_ is with you.

Cl. 1 *ff* *p*

Cl. 2 *ff* *p*

Male Spk She was deeply disturbed by these words



30 *Allegretto*, ♩ = 108

Tr. Rec. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Perc. Taiko Drum *p* *mf* *p*

S. *mf* *p* *mf* Ma - ry, do not be a

A. *mf* *p* *mf* Ma - ry, do not be a

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Male Spk and asked herself what this greeting could mean.

Taiko Drum

40

Perc. *mf* < *f* *mf* *p* < *mf* *p* < *mf*

S. *f* *p*
 fraid; you have won God's fa - vour. Lis - ten! Lis - ten!

A. *f* *p*
 fraid; you have won God's fa - vour. Lis - ten Lis - ten!

T. *f* *p* *mf*
 You have won God's fa - vour. Lis - ten! You are to con - ceive and bear

B. *f* *p* *mf*
 You have won God's fa - vour. Lis - ten! You are to con - ceive and bear

Taiko Drum

45

Perc. *p* < *mf* *p* *f* *ff*

S. *f* *ff*
 Je - sus, Je - sus. He will be

A. *f* *ff*
 Je - sus, Je - sus. He will be

T. *f* *ff*
 a son, and you must name Him Je - sus, Je - sus. He will be

B. *f* *ff*
 a son, and you must name Him Je - sus, Je - sus. He will be

Taiko Drum

50

Perc. *f* *mf* rit.

S. *f*
 great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His an - ces - tor Da - vid;

A. *f*
 great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His an - ces - tor Da - vid;

T. *f*
 great and will be called Son of the Most High, The Lord God will give Him the throne of His an - ces - tor Da -

B. *f*
 great and will be called Son of the Most High, The Lord God will give Him the throne of His an - ces - tor Da -

Meno mosso, ♩ = 92 55

Meno mosso, ♩ = 72

Perc. Taiko Drum

S. Solo

S.

A.

T.

B.

He will rule o-ver the House of Ja-cob for e - ver and His reign will have no end.

He will rule o-ver the House of Ja-cob for e - ver and His reign will have no end.

vid; He will rule o - ver the House of Ja-cob for e - ver and His reign will have no end.

vid; He will rule o - ver the House of Ja-cob for e - ver and His reign will have no end.

But how, _____

S. Solo

how shall this come a- bout, since I am a vir - gin?

Moderato, ♩ = 92

Tr. Rec.

S.

A.

T.

B.

The Ho-ly Spi-rit will come u-pon you, _____

The Ho-ly Spi-rit will come u - pon you, _____

and the power of the Most High will co-ver you with its sha-dow.

and the power of the Most High will co-ver you with its sha-dow.

To Flute 75

Tr. Rec.

Perc.

Taiko Drum

To Clash Cymbals

S. And so the child will be Ho - ly and will be called the Son of God. Ah!

A. And so the child will be Ho - ly and will be called the Son of God. Know this too: your

T. And so the child will be Ho - ly and will be called the Son of God. Know this too: your

B. And so the child will be Ho - ly and will be called the Son of God. Know this too: your

80

S. Ah!

A. kins - wo - man E - li - za - beth has, in her old age,

T. kins - wo - man E - li - za - beth has, in her old age, her - self con - ceived a son, and she whom peo - ple call

B. her - self con - ceived a son, and she whom peo - ple call

Baritones (first basses)

85 90 rit. *p*

S. Solo

S. For no - thing is im - pos - si - ble to God.

A. For no - thing is im - pos - si - ble to God.

T. bar - ren is now in her sixth month, For no - thing is im - pos - si - ble to God.

B. bar - ren is now in her sixth month, For no - thing is im - pos - si - ble to God.

95

Meno mosso, ♩ = 72

S. Solo

mf *p* *mf* *p* *ff*

am the hand - maid of the Lord, let what you have said be done, be done to me. *attacca*

100

4. The Virginal Conception of Christ

Matthew 1: 23

Allegro, ♩ = 144

Soprano Solo

5

Organ

GT: 8' + 16' *ff*

Trumpet

Couple to GT + 4' Reed

Pedals

ff

10

Org.

Ped.

15

Male Spk

ff

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, *ff*

And

20

Org.

mf *ff* *mf*

SW

SW: 8' Salicional + Mixtures

GT

Couple to SW + 16' Sub Bass

Ped.

mf

Spoken *f* [25]

S. & A. Im - ma - nu - el,

T. & B. Spoken *f*
Im - ma - nu - el,

Male Spk *ff*
they will call Him Immanuel,
and they will call Him Im -

Org. *cresc.* *f* *GT ff*

Ped. *cresc.* *f* *Couple to GT + 4' Reed* *ff*

[30]

S. & A. *ff* Im - ma - nu - el, *fff* Im - ma - nuel.

T. & B. *ff* Im - ma - nu - el, *fff* Im - ma - nuel.

Male Spk *fff*
ma - nu - el, Im - ma - nuel.

Org. *SW* *ff* *GT ff*

Ped. *ff*

[35]

Org. *attacca*

Ped.

5. Magnificat

Luke 1: 46-55

Allegro, ♩ = 88

5

f

Soprano My soul pro-claims the great - ness of the Lord and my spi - rit ex - alts in God my -

Alto

Tenor

Bass

10

S. Sa - viour; be - cause He has looked u - pon His low - ly hand - maid - en. Yes, from

f

A. be - cause He has looked u - pon His low - ly hand - maid - en.

T. be - cause He has looked u - pon His low - ly hand maid - en. Yes, from this day for - ward

15

S. this day for - ward all ge - ner - a - tions will call me bles - sed. For the Al - migh - ty has

A. Yes, from this day for - ward all ge - er - a - tions will call me bles - sed. For the Al - migh -

T. all ge - ner - a - tions will call me bles - sed. For the Al - migh - ty has done great

f

B. For the Al -

20

ff

S. done great things for me. Ho - ly is His name, and His mer - cy rea - ches from

ff

A. ty has done great things for me. Ho - ly is His name, and His mer - cy rea - ches from

ff

T. things for me. Ho - ly is His name, and His mer - cy rea - ches from

ff

B. migh - ty has done great things for me. Ho - ly is His name, and His mer - cy rea - ches from

25

30

Meno mosso, ♩ = 60

S. *mf* age to age for those who fear Him. He has rou-ted the proud of

A. *mf* age to age for those who fear Him. He has rou-ted the proud of

T. *mf* age to age for those who fear Him. He has shown the power of His arm,

B. *mf* age to age for those who fear Him. He has shown the power of His arm,

35

40

S. *mf* heart. He has pulled down prin-ces from the thrones, and e - xal - ted, e - xal - ted the low - ly...

A. *mf* heart. He has pulled down prin-ces from the thrones, and e - xal - ted, e - xal - ted the low - ly...

T. *mf* He has pulled down prin-ces from the thrones, and e - xal - ted the low - ly...

B. *mf* He has pulled down prin-ces from the thrones, and e - xal - ted the low - ly...

A tempo, ♩ = 88

45

S. *f* The hun - gry He has filled with good things, the rich sent em - pty a -

A. *f* The hun - gry He has filled with good things, the rich sent

T. *f* The hun - gry He has filled with good things, the rich sent em -

B. *f* The hun - gry He has filled with good things, the

50

S. *ff* way. He has come to the help of Is-ra-el His ser-vants, mind-ful of His mer-cy

A. *ff* — em-pty a-way. He has come to the help of Is-ra-el His ser-vants, mind-ful of His mer-

T. *ff* -pty a-way. He has come to the help of Is-ra-el His ser-vants, — a- *ff*

B. *ff* rich sent em-pty a-way. — a-

55

60

S. *f* of His mer-cy, His mer-cy to Ab-ra-ham

A. *f* cy of his mer-cy, His mer-cy to Ab-ra-ham

T. *f* cor-ding to the pro-mise He made to our an-ces-tors — of his mer-cy, His mer-cy to Ab-ra-ham

B. *f* cor-ding to the pro-mise He made to our an-ces-tors — of his mer-cy, His mer-cy to Ab-ra-ham

65

Allegro, ♩ = 144

S. *ff* and to his des-cen-dants for e-ver.

A. *ff* and to his des-cen-dants for e-ver.

T. *ff* and to his des-cen-dants for e-ver.

B. *ff* and to his des-cen-dants for e-ver.

Org. *ff* GT: 8' + 16' Trumpet

Ped. *ff* Couple to GT + 4' Reed

70

Org.

Ped.

75

Org.

Ped.

6. The Birth of Jesus and Visit of the Shepherds

Luke 2: 1-20

Adagio e Maestoso, ♩ = 66

Flute

Clash Cymbals

Percussion

Organ

Full SW, excluding 16'

f *mf*

ff

ff *p* *ff*

5

Fl.

Clash Cymbals

Perc.

Org.

f *mf*

f *mf*

p *ff* *p* *ff*

10

To Taiko Drum, (see page 2 for alternatives) **Allegro, ♩ = 144**

Perc. Taiko Drum *mf* *p*

Cl. 1 *mf* *p*

Cl. 2 *mf*

Male Spk *mf*
Now at this time, Caesar Augustus issued a decree for the census of the whole world to be taken.

Org. *p*



15

Perc. Taiko Drum *p* *mf*

Cl. 1 *mf*

Cl. 2 *p* *mf*

Male Spk *p*
This census - the first - took place while Quirinius was governing Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered.



20

25

Perc. Taiko Drum *p*

Cl. 1 *p*

Cl. 2 *p*

Male Spk *p*
So Joseph set out from the town Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judea to the town of David, called Bethlehem, since he was of



30

Perc. Taiko Drum *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Cl. 1 *mf* *p*

Cl. 2 *mf* *p*

Male Spk *p*
David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed,

Adagio e Maestoso, ♩ = 66

35

Fl. *mf* *pp*

Perc. To Large Suspended Cymbal Large Suspended Cymbal, hard sticks *p* *sempre p*

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Male Spk *p* *mf*
who was with child. Spoken slowly } While they were there, the time came

Org. *p*
8' Diapason + 2' flute

Fl. *mf* *pp* *mf* *f*

Perc. Large Suspended Cymbal *mf*

Male Spk *mf*
for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born.

Org.

40

Fl. *mf* *f* *p* *mf*

Perc. Large Suspended Cymbal *p* To 2 Bongos and Conga Drum

Male Spk *p*
She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes,.

Org. *p*
8' Salicional only.

Allegretto, J. = 96

45 50

Fl. *p* *mf* *f* *mf*

Male Spk and laid Him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

Org.

55

Fl. *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Male Spk In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields, and

60 65

Fl. *f* *ff* *f* *p*

Male Spk took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night.

70

Fl. *fp* *f* *p* *f* *mf* *ff*

Male Spk The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the Glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified.

Moderato, J. = 92

75 80

Fl. *mf* *p* *p* *mf*

Perc. 2 Bongos and Conga Drum, with sticks

S. Do not be af-raid. Lis-ten, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be

A. Do not be af-raid. Lis-ten, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be

T. Do not be af-raid. Lis-ten, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be

B. Do not be af-raid. Lis-ten, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be

85

Fl. *f* *tr*

Perc. *mf* *f*
Two bongos and conga drum

S. *f*
shared by the whole peo-ple. To-day, in the town of Da-vid, a Sa-viour has been born to you;

A. *f*
shared by the whole peo-ple. To-day, in the town of Da-vid, a Sa-viour has been born to you;

T. *f*
shared by the whole peo-ple. To-day, in the town of Da-vid, a Sa-viour has been born to you;

B. *f*
shared by the whole peo-ple. To-day, in the town of Da-vid, a Sa-viour has been born to you;



90

Fl. *ff* *f*

Perc. *ff* *f*
Two bongos and conga drum

S. *ff* *f*
He is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find the ba-by wrapped in swad-dling

A. *ff* *f*
He is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find the ba-by wrapped in swad-dling

T. *ff* *f*
He is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find the ba-by wrapped in swad-dling

B. *ff* *f*
He is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find the ba-by wrapped in swad-dling

Adagio e Maestoso, ♩ = 66

To Treble Recorder

Fl. *più f* *ff*

Perc. *più f* *ff*

S. *più f* *ff*
clothes and ly - ing in a man - ger.

A. *più f* *ff*
clothes and ly - ing in a man - ger.

T. *più f* *ff*
clothes and ly - ing in a man - ger.

B. *più f* *ff*
clothes and ly - ing in a man - ger.

Male Spk *ff*
And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host,

Org. *Full SW* *ff*

Ped. *mf* *f*
16' (+ 32') only + 8'

Perc. Clash Cymbals

S. *ff* ³ Glo-ry, Glo - - ry to God,

A. *ff* ³ Glo-ry, Glo - ry to God,

T. *ff* ³ Glo-ry, Glo - ry to God,

B. *ff* ³ Glo-ry, Glo - ry to God,

Male Spk. 7 praising God:

Org. ³

Ped. *Full ff*

100

S. Glo - ry to God in the high - est hea - ven, and

A. Glo - ry to God in the high - est hea - ven, and

T. Glo - ry to God in the high - est hea - ven, and

B. Glo - ry to God in the high - est hea - ven, and

Org. ³

Ped.

105

S. peace to men who en-joy, who en-joy His fa-vour.

A. peace to men who en-joy, en-joy His fa-vour.

T. peace to men who en-joy, en-joy His fa-vour.

B. peace to men who en-joy, en-joy His fa-vour.

Org. Full Organ *fff*

Ped. Full Organ *fff*



110

Tr. Rec. *pp*

Perc. Clash Cymbals *ff* (damp) To Large Suspended Cymbal

T. *espress., con rubato p*
Let us go to Beth - le - hem and see this thing that has

B. *espress., con rubato p*
Baritones (first basses) Let us go to Beth - le - hem and see this thing that has

Org.

Ped. 8' flute + Sub Bass *pp*

Tr. Rec. *p*

T. hap-pened which the Lord has made known to us.

B. hap-pened which the Lord has made known to us.

Male Spk *mf* So they hurried away

Org. 8' Rohr Flute + 1 3/5' Tierce *pp*

Ped.

Tr. Rec. *mf*

Cl. 1 *p*

Cl. 2 *p*

Male Spk and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, lying in a manger. When they saw the child, they repeated

Org.

Tr. Rec. *f* *mf* *p* *pp*

Perc. Large Suspended Cymbal, soft sticks *pp*

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Male Spk *f* *p* *p* what they had been told about Him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary,

Org.

130

Tr. Rec. *(tr)* *tr* *mf* *pp* *p* *pp*

Perc. Large Suspended Cymbal *(tr)*

Cl. 1 *pp*

Cl. 2 *pp*

Male Spk she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen;

Org. *Couple to manual (No Ped stop)*

Ped.

135

140

Tr. Rec. *3* *pp*

Perc. Large Suspended Cymbal *(tr)* Windchimes *pp* Large Suspended Cymbal *pp*

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Male Spk it was exactly as they had been told.

Org. *- 1 3/5' Tierce* *ppp*

Ped. *ppp* *attacca*

7. Epilogue

Matthew 3: 3

Adagio e Maestoso, ♩ = 66

Large Suspended Cymbal

Percussion

Full Choir

Organ

Pedals

Shouted

A voice cries in the wil-der-ness:

Full SW

GT: Trumpets 8' + 16'

Ped: Couple to SW + Full pedal



Large Suspended Cymbal

Perc.

Choir.

Org.

Ped.

'Pre- pare a way for the Lord, make His paths straight.'



Org.

Ped.

10

Org.

Ped.

Large Suspended Cymbal

Perc. *tr* *mf*

Org.

Ped.

15 Large Suspended Cymbal

Perc. *(tr)* *ffz*

Org.

Ped.