

Sacred Prelude

(*Stile Antico*)

Op.15

For

String Orchestra

by

JONATHAN DAVID LITTLE

About the Music

A natural rubato is felt throughout this haunting, single-movement work for string orchestra. The sound is reminiscent of that of ancient church music. Written in the *stile antico*, it opens with a “Plainsong”, then comes the main central “Anthem”. There is a brief reprise of the opening theme, before the work closes with a more emphatic “Fantasia” (where the sense of rubato becomes almost improvisatory). The work, as a whole, may be said to comprise a poignant “prayer” for strings.

Note:

There is the option for all parts to play the entire work *con sord.* (with the exception of the final violin solo – from bar 146); but the work should always be played as expressively as possible, throughout.

Sacred Prelude, Op. 15

Stile Antico ★

for String Orchestra

Jonathan David LITTLE
Arranged by Anthony Weeden
in collaboration with the composer

1

PLAINSONG
(♩=62)

Meno Mosso

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Double Bass

2

5

sul tasto

naturale

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

* A natural rubato should be felt throughout the work

10 **rit. A Tempo rit. A Tempo molto accel. rit.**

Vln. I *mf* *p* *fp* *f* *mf*

Vln. II *mf* *p* *mf* *fp* *f* *mf*

Vla. *mf* *p* *fp* *f* *mf* *div.*

Vc. *mf* *mf* *fp* *f* *mf*

Db. *mf* *mf* *fp* *mf*

Db. *p* *fp* *f* *mf*



3

13 **A Tempo rit. A Tempo**

Vln. I *f* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *p*

Vln. II *f* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *p*

Vla. *f* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *unis.* *div.* *unis.*

Vc. *f* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *p*

Db. *f* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *molto pesante* *molto pesante*