

Alex Stephenson

RELIGION

(2015)

for six voices

Text by Wallace Stevens

First performed by EXAUDI Vocal Ensemble
James Weeks, conductor
Milton Court, London, United Kingdom
March 30, 2015

DURATION: 5 minutes

VOICES

Soprano
Mezzo-soprano
Countertenor
Tenor
Baritone
Bass

TO CONTACT THE COMPOSER
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Religion

Wallace Stevens
(1879-1955)

Alex Stephenson
(b. 1990)

Estatico (♩=144)

Soprano
Mezzo-soprano
Countertenor
Tenor
Baritone
Bass

Jove in the clouds, Jove in the clouds,
Jove in the clouds, Jove in the clouds,
Jove in the clouds, Jove in the clouds,
Jove in the clouds, Jove in the clouds,
Jove in the clouds, Jove in the clouds,

ffp *ff* *sf* *pp* *ff* *sf*

rit. $\text{♩}=72$ **A** $\text{♩}=144$

S. clouds in clouds had his,
M-S. clouds Jove clouds in had the had his
Ct. clouds had the inhuman his had his,
T. clouds his inhuman the Jove had his,
Bar. clouds Jove in his inhuman clouds had the had his
B. clouds in his clouds the Jove inhuman had had his

pp *ppp* *ff* *ffp* *ff*

whisper ad lib.*
whispering stops suddenly

* Quick, nervous, repeated whispering over the given duration. Freely vary word order.

11

S. *p* his *ff* *solo* *mf espr., florid* in hu - -

M-S. *ff* *solo* *mf espr., florid* in hu - - - - - man, his *f* *(non solo)* *p*

Ct. *ff* in - - - hu man in - -

T. *ff* in - - hu man in - -

Bar. *ff* in - - hu man in - -

B. *ff* in - - hu man in - -

15

S. *f* *pp sub.* *rit.* *sub.* *mf* *(non solo)* *pp* (u) - - - man birth -

M-S. *pp* birth - - -

Ct. *p* *f* *ff* *pp* hu - - man, his birth - -

T. *p* *f* *ff* *pp* hu - - man, his birth. - -

Bar. *p* *f* *ff* hu - - man, his

B. *p* *f* *ff* hu - - man, his

19

ff sub., stridente! *p* *mf*

S. (th). Ah. No mo - ther su - ckled him,

M-S. (th). Ah. No mo - ther su - ckled him,

Ct. (th). Ah. No mo - ther su - ckled him,

T. (th). Ah. No mo - ther su - ckled him,

Bar. birth (th). Ah. No mo - ther su - ckled him,

B. birth (th). Ah. No mo - ther su - ckled him,

All voices place an especially grotesque and unnatural accent on 'th.'

C

24

rit. *♩=72* *accel.*

ff *p* *pp* *mp*

S. no sweet land gave

M-S. no sweet sweet land gave

Ct. no sweet land gave

T. no, no, sweet land gave

Bar. no, no, sweet land gave

B. no, no, sweet land gave

whisper ad lib. (*ppp*)

mythy his motions to large mind

whisper ad lib. (*ppp*)

mannered mythy to his large mind motions

whisper ad lib. (*ppp*)

to mind mannered his large motions mythy

D

4

♩=144

30

S. *ppp* *pp sempre*
He,

M-S. *pp sempre*
He moved,

Ct. *ppp* *p solo* *mf nervoso, legg.*
He moved a - mong us, as a mut - ter - ing.

T. *rit./fade out* *pp sempre*
mythy his motions to
large mind mannered moved,

Bar. *rit./fade out*
mannered mythy to his
large mind motions

B. *rit./fade out*
to mind mannered his
large motions mythy

E

34

S. *pp chant-like, murmuring* *sub. f*
Mag - - ni - fi - cent,

M-S. *pp chant-like* *pp* *(non solo)* *sub. f*
Mag - ni - fi - cent,

Ct. *pp* *pp chant-like, murmuring* *sub. f* *sub. scherzando*
king, Mag - - ni - fi - cent, would

T. *pp chant-like, murmuring* *sub. f*
Mag - ni - fi - cent,

Bar. *rit./fade out* *pp chant-like, murmuring* *sub. f*
mannered mythy to his
large mind motions Mag - ni - fi - cent,

B. *rit./fade out*
to mind mannered his
large motions mythy

F

rit.

Più tranquillo (♩=60)

5

39

S. *pp* his, Un - til

M-S. *pp* Un - - - til

Ct. *pp sub.* (dim. poss.) *pp non cresc.* (non solo) *ff feroce!* our

T. *ff feroce!* ah

Bar. *ff feroce!* ah

B. *ff feroce!* ah

G

43

S. *p dolce* our blood, *solo mf innocente* com - ming - ling,

M-S. *p dolce* our blood, *mf* com - ming - ling, *pp* vir - gin - al, *mfpp* 3

Ct. *p dolce* blood, *mf* com - ming - ling, *pp* vir - gin - al, *mfpp* 3

T. *p dolce* our blood, *mf* com - ming - ling, *pp* vir - gin - al, *mfpp* 3

Bar. *p dolce* our blood, *mf* com - ming - ling, *pp* vir - gin - al, *mfpp* 3

B. *p dolce* our blood, *mf* com - ming - ling, *pp* vir - gin - al, *mfpp* 3

49 *p* *(dim. poss.)* *p* *pp* **H**

S. *vir - gin - al,* *With heav'n,*

M-S. *With heav'n, With heav'n, brought such re - qui -*

Ct. *With heav'n, With heav'n, brought such re - qui -*

T. *With heav'n, With heav'n, brought such re - qui -*

Bar. *With heav'n, With heav'n, brought such re - qui -*

B. *With heav'n, With heav'n, brought such re - qui -*

54 *(non solo)* *ppp* *mf warm* **I** *whisper ad lib. (ppp)*

S. *de - - sire* *gave such requital to desire the very hinds discerned it*

M-S. *tal to de - - sire* *whisper ad lib. (ppp)* *such desire hinds to discerned it the very requital brought*

Ct. *tal to de - - sire* *mf warm* *ppp* *solo p* *The*

T. *tal to de - - sire* *whisper ad lib. (ppp)* *to desire discerned requital the very brought it such hinds*

Bar. *tal to de - - sire* *whisper ad lib. (ppp)* *requital discerned it to desire very such the hinds brought*

B. *tal to de - - sire* *whisper ad lib. (ppp)* *such it very brought requital to hinds the discerned desire*

60

whispering stops suddenly

mfpp *pp* (*dim. poss.*)

S. gave such requital to desire the
very hinds discerned it a star.

M-S. rit./fade out *pp* *mfpp bell-like* *mfpp* *pp* (*dim. poss.*)
such desire hinds to discerned it
the very requital brought ah in a star.

Ct. 3 *mfpp bell-like* *mfpp* *pp*
ver-y hinds dis-cerned it, in a star.

T. *mfpp bell-like* *mfpp* *pp* *molto!*
to desire discerned requital the
very brought it such hinds in a star.

Bar. *mfpp* *pp* *molto!*
requital discerned it to desire
very such the hinds brought a star.

B. *pp*
such it very brought requital to
hinds the discerned desire star.

J

Sostenuto intenso (l'istesso tempo)

65

S. *ff* *sf* *pp sub.*
Shall, Shall our blood, blood,

M-S. *ff* *sf* *pp*
Shall, Shall our blood fail?

Ct. *ff* *sf* *ff!*
Shall, Shall, Shall our blood,

T. *ff* *sf* *ff!*
Shall, Shall, Shall our blood,

Bar. *ff* *sf* *ff!*
Shall, Shall, Shall our blood

B. *ff* *sf* *pp sub.*
Shall, Shall, Shall our blood, blood,

lirico, flessibile, warm

70

S. *pp* *mp* *pp* *mfp*
shall it come to be The

M-S. *pp* *mp* *pp* *mfp*
shall it come to be The

Ct. *pp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mfp*
Or shall it come to be The

T. *pp* *mp* *pp* *mfp*
shall it come to be The

Bar. *pp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mfp*
Or shall it come to be The

B. *pp non cresc.* *mfp*
shall it come to be The

K

rit. Poco meno mosso (♩=54)

(2+2+3)

74

S. *mf* *f espr.* *mf* *p* (solo) *p*
blood of pa - ra - dise? And

M-S. *mf* *fp* *pp* *mfp* *mfp* *pp*
blood of pa - solo - ra - dise? (solo) *p* *mp* *pp*

Ct. *mf* *f* *f espr., dolente* *p* (solo) *p* *mp* *pp*
blood of pa - ra - dise? And shall

T. *mf* *fp* *pp* *mfp* *mfp* *pp*
blood of pa - - - - ra - dise?

Bar. *mf* *fp* *pp* *mfp* *mfp* *pp*
blood of pa - - - - ra - dise?

B. *mf* *fp* *pp* *mfp* *mfp* *pp*
blood of pa - - - - ra - dise?

79

mf *p* *mf* *pp* (*dim. poss.*)

S. shall, shall the earth,

M-S. and shall, shall the earth Seem all of

Ct. and shall, shall the earth Seem all of

T. and shall, shall the earth Seem all of

Bar. and shall, shall the earth Seem all of

B. and shall, shall the earth Seem all of

83

L

(solo) *pp* *p* *pp*

S. that we shall know,

M-S. pa - ra - dise we shall know,

Ct. pa - ra - dise we shall know,

T. pa - ra - dise we shall know?

Bar. pa - ra - dise we shall know?

B. pa - ra - dise we shall know?

ritenuto **Più moderato, teneramente** (♩=60)

88

S. *p* shall know? (non solo) *pp* The sky, *poco* The *sim.*

M-S. *pp* shall know?

Ct. *pp* know? The sky, *poco* The *sim.*

T. *solo p espr.* The sky will be much friend-lier then than

Bar. *pp* The sky, *poco*

B. —

92

S. sky, *pp* love,

M-S. *solo p espr.* A part of la - bor and a part of pain, *mf* 3 *p* *pp*

Ct. *mfpp accomp.* sky, sky will be friend - - lier, *mfpp*

T. *mfpp accomp.* now, sky will be next in glo - ry to en - dur - ing *solo p espr.* 3 *mf* 3

Bar. *pp* The sky will be friend - - lier, *mfpp accomp.* *mfpp* *mfpp*

B. *pp* The sky will be friend - - lier, *mfpp accomp.* *mfpp* *mfpp*

96 **N**

S. *pp* (non solo) love, this di - vi - ding and

M-S. *pp* love, this di - vi - ding and

Ct. *pp* Not this di - vi - ding and

T. *pp* (non solo) love, this di - vi - ding and

Bar. *pp* this di - vi - ding and

B. *pp* di - vi - ding and

O
Meno mosso e morendo (♩=54)

100

S. *pp* in - diff - erent blue.

M-S. *pp* in - diff - erent blue, *pp sempre*

Ct. *pp* in - diff - erent

T. *pp* in - diff - erent blue, *pp sempre*

Bar. *pp* in - diff - erent blue, *pp sempre*

B. *pp* in - diff - erent blue, *pp sempre*

106

S. *ppp* *3* Ah...

M-S. *ppp* *3* Ah... blue.

Ct. *pp* blue. *ppp* *3* Ah...

T. blue. *ppp* *3* Ah...

Bar. blue. *ppp* *3* Ah...

B. blue. *ppp* *3* Ah...

FOR PERUSAL