

Chorus:

Hallelujah from the heart of God,
and from the hand of the artist inimitable,
and from the echo of the heavenly harp
in sweetness magnificent and mighty.

Christopher Smart

Soprano

Christina Whitford

Alto

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Tenor

Albert Garcia

Baritone

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REJOICE IN THE LAMB

Benjamin Britten (Op. 30)

Chorus:

Rejoice in God, O ye Tongues;
give the glory to the Lord, and the Lamb.
Nations, and languages, and every Creature,
in which is the breath of Life.
Let man and beast appear before him,
and magnify his name together.
Let nimrod, the mighty hunter, bind a Leopard to the altar,
and consecrate his spear to the Lord.
Let Ishmael dedicate a Tyger, and give praise for the liberty
in which the Lord has let him at large.
Let Balaam appear with an Ass,
and bless the Lord his people
and his creatures for a reward eternal.
Let Daniel come forth with a Lion,
and praise God with all his might
through faith in Christ Jesus.
Let Ithamar minister with a Chamois,
and bless the name of Him that clotheth the naked.
Let Jakim with the Satyr bless God in the dance.
Let David bless with the Bear -
the beginning of victory to the Lord -
to the Lord the perfection of excellence -
Hallelujah from the heart of God
and from the hand of the artist inimitable,
and from the echo of the heavenly harp
in sweetness magnificent and mighty.

Soprano Solo:

For I will consider my Cat Jeoffry.
For he is the servant of the Living God,
duly and daily serving him.
For at the first glance of the glory of God in the East
he worships in his way.
For this is done by wreathing his body seven times round
with elegant quickness.
For he knows that God is his Saviour.
For God has blessed him in the variety of his movements.
For there is nothing sweeter than his peace when at rest.
For I am possessed of a cat, surpassing in beauty,
from whom I take occasion to bless Almighty God.

Alto Solo:

For the Mouse is a creature of great personal valour.
For - this is a true case - Cat takes female mouse -
male mouse will not depart,
but stands threatening and daring.
If you will let her go, I will engage you,
as prodigious a creature as you are.
For the Mouse is a creature of great personal valour.
For the Mouse is of an hospitable disposition.

Tenor Solo:

For the flowers are great blessings.
For the flowers have their angels
even the words of God's creation.
For the flower glorifies God
and the root parries the adversary.
For there is a language of flowers.
For flowers are peculiarly the poetry of Christ.

Chorus:

For I am under the same accusation with my Saviour -
for they said, he is besides himself.
For the officers of the peace are at variance with me,
and the watchman smites me with his staff.
For Silly fellow! Silly fellow! is against me
and belongeth neither to me nor to my family.
For I am in twelve Hardships,
but he that was born of a virgin
shall deliver me out of all.

Baritone Solo and Chorus:

For H is a spirit and therefore he is God.
For K is king and therefore he is God.
For L is love and therefore he is God.
For M is musick and therefore he is God.
For the instruments are by their rhimes.
For the Shawm rhimes are lawn fawn moon boon and the like.
For the harp rhimes are sing ring string and the like.
For the cymbal rhimes are bell well toll soul and the like.
For the flute rhimes are tooth youth suit mute and the like.
For the Bassoon rhimes are pass class and the like.
For the dulcimer rhimes are grace place beat heat and the like.
For the Trumpet of God is a blessed intelligence
and so are all the instrumts in heaven.
For God the father Almighty plays upon the Harp
of stupendous magnitude and melody.
For at that time malignity ceases
and the devils themselves are at peace.
For this time is perceptible to man
by a remarkable stillness and serenity of soul.