O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM
TTBB Chorus, Sacred

Morten Lauridsen

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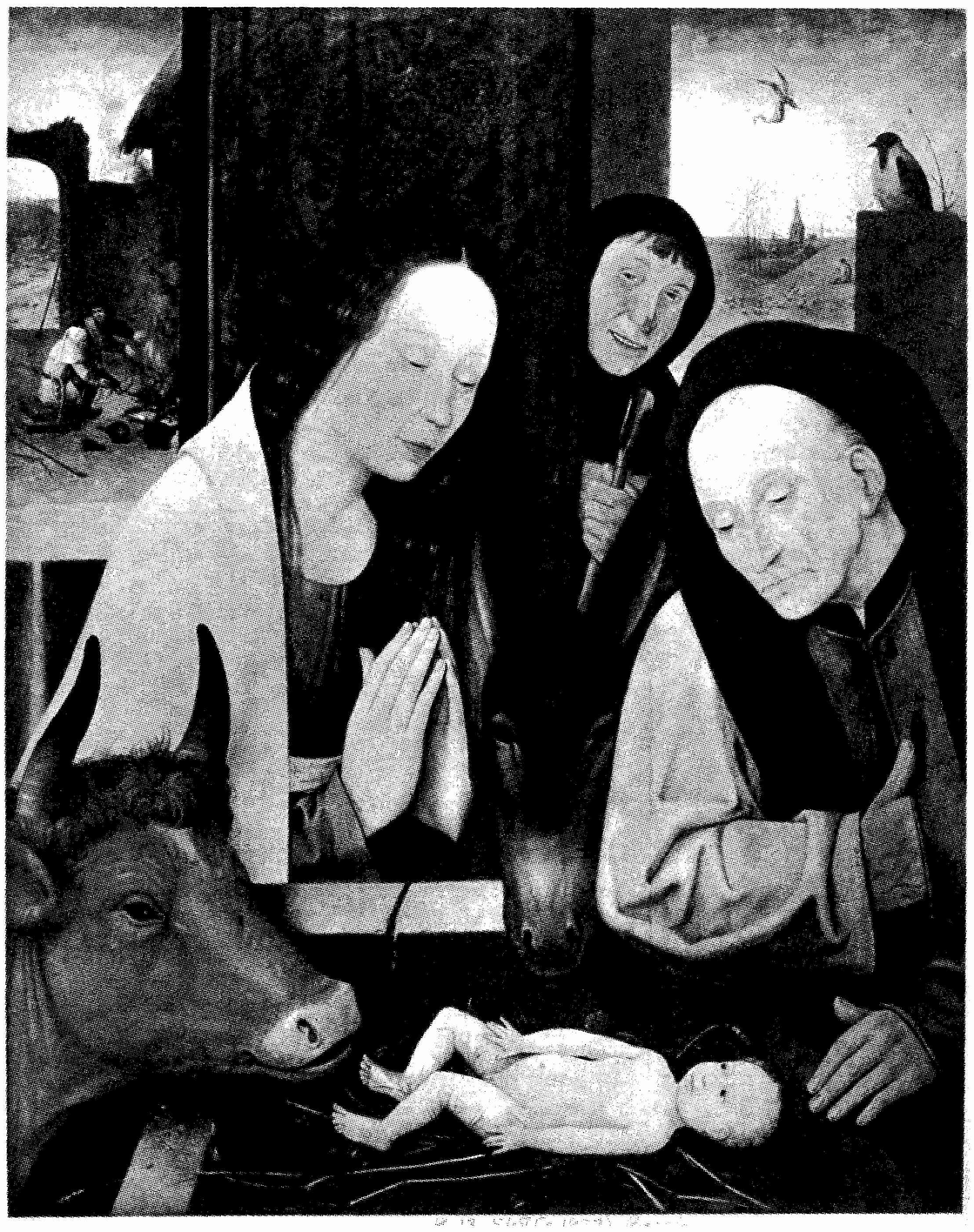
O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

for TTBB chorus, a cappella



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O magnum mysterium,
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum
natum, jacentum in praesepio!
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera
meruerunt portare
Dominum Christum. Alleluia!

O great mystery,
and wondrous sacrament,
that animals should see the new-
born Lord, lying in their manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear the
Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

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For centuries, composers have been inspired by the beautiful *O Magnum Mysterium* text depicting the birth of the new-born King amongst the lowly animals and shepherds. This affirmation of God's grace to the meek and the adoration of the Blessed Virgin are celebrated in my setting through a quiet song of profound inner joy.

Morten Lauridsen
Composer-in-Residence
Los Angeles Master Chorale

O Magnum Mysterium was commissioned by Marshall Rutter in honor of his wife, Terry Knowles, and premiered by the Los Angeles Master Chorale, conducted by Paul Salamunovich, at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles on December 18, 1994. Maestro Salamunovich and the men of the Master Chorale premiered the TTBB version at the Pavilion on April 14, 2000, followed shortly thereafter by the Canadian premiere with the Victoria Scholars, Jerzy Cichocki, Music Director.

Cover Painting: *The Nativity* by Hieronymus Bosch, 15th century

O Magnum Mysterium

Morten Lauridsen

Adagio, molto legato e espressivo (♩ = *ca.* 72)

Tenor 1 — *pp* — *rit.*

O mag - num mys - te - - - ri - um,

Tenor 2 — *pp* — *rit.*

O mag - num mys - te - - - ri - um,

Bass 1 — *pp* — *rit.*

O mag - num mys - te - - - ri - um,

Bass 2 — *pp* — *rit.*

O mag - num mys - te - - - ri - um,

Adagio, molto legato e espressivo (♩ = *ca.* 72)

(for rehearsal only) — *pp* — *rit.*

(May also be performed a half- or whole-step higher)

5 **A tempo**

pp

O mag - num mys - te - - - ri - um,

pp — *p*

O mag - num mys - te - - ri - um, et ad - mi -

pp

O mag - num mys - te - - ri - um,

pp

O mag - num mys - te - - ri - um,

5 **A tempo**

pp — *p*

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9

p mp

sa - cra - men - tum, et ad - mi - ra - - - - bi -

p mp

ra - bi - le sa - cra - men - tum, et ad - mi - ra - - - - bi -

p mp

sa - cra - men - tum, et ad - mi - ra - - - - bi -

p mp

sa - cra - men - tum, et ad - mi - ra - - - - bi -

9

mp

13

rit. - - - A tempo

p

le, et ad - - - - - mi - ra - bi - le sa -

le, et ad - - - - - mi - ra - bi - le sa -

le, et ad - - - - - mi - ra - bi - le sa -

le, et ad - - - - - mi - ra - bi - le sa -

13

rit. - - - A tempo

p

17

Poco più mosso (♩ = *ca.* 76)

p

cra - men - tum, O mag - num mys -

cra - men - tum, O mag - num mys -

cra - men - tum, O mag - num mys -

cra - men - tum, O mag - num mys -

17

Poco più mosso (♩ = *ca.* 76)

p

21

poco rit. A tempo

te - - - ri - um, O mag - num mys -

te - - - ri - um, O mag - num mys -

te - - - ri - um, O mag - num mys -

te - - - ri - um, O mag - num mys -

21

poco rit. A tempo

ri - um, vi - de - rent Do - mi - num, ut a - ni -

ri - um, ut a - ni - ma - li - a vi - de - rent Do - mi - num, ut a - ni -

ri - um, vi - de - rent Do - mi - num, ut a - ni -

25

ri - um, vi - de - rent Do - mi - num, ut a - ni -

29

ma - li - a vi - de - rent

ma - li - a vi - de - rent

ma - li - a vi - de - rent

ma - li - a vi - de - rent

29

ma - li - a vi - de - rent

33

rit. - - - - **A tempo**

p

Do - mi - num na - tum, ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pio!

p

Do - mi - num na - tum, ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pio!

p

Do - mi - num na - tum, ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pio!

p

Do - mi - num na - tum, ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pio!

33

rit. - - - - **A tempo**

p

37

rit. - - - - **Tempo primo**

pp

Be - a - ta Vir - - - go, cu - jus vis - ce - ra me - ru -

pp

Vir - - - go, cu - jus vis - ce - ra me - ru -

pp

Vir - - - go, cu - jus vis - ce - ra me - ru -

pp

Vir - - - go, cu - jus vis - ce - ra me - ru -

37

rit. - - - - **Tempo primo**

pp

41

poco rit. A tempo

e - runt, Be - a - ta Vir - - - go, por - ta - re Do - mi - num

e - runt, Vir - - - go, por - ta - re Do - mi - num

e - runt, Vir - - - go, por - ta - re Do - mi - num

e - runt, Vir - - - go, por - ta - re Do - mi - num

41

poco rit. A tempo

45

molto rit. A tempo, poco deliberamente

mp *mf*

Chris - tum. Al - le lu - - - ia! Al - le - lu - -

Chris - tum. Al - le, O mag - num mys - te - -

Chris - tum. Al - le lu, O mag - num mys - te - -

Chris - tum. Al - le - lu - - - ia! Al - le - lu - -

45

molto rit. A tempo, poco deliberamente

mp *mf*

49

poco rit. A tempo

- - ia! Al - le - lu - - - ia! Al - le - lu - - -

- - ri - um, O mag - num mys - te - - ri -

- - ri - um, O mag - num mys - te - - -

- - ia! Al - le - lu - - - ia! Al - le - lu - - -

49

poco rit. A tempo

53

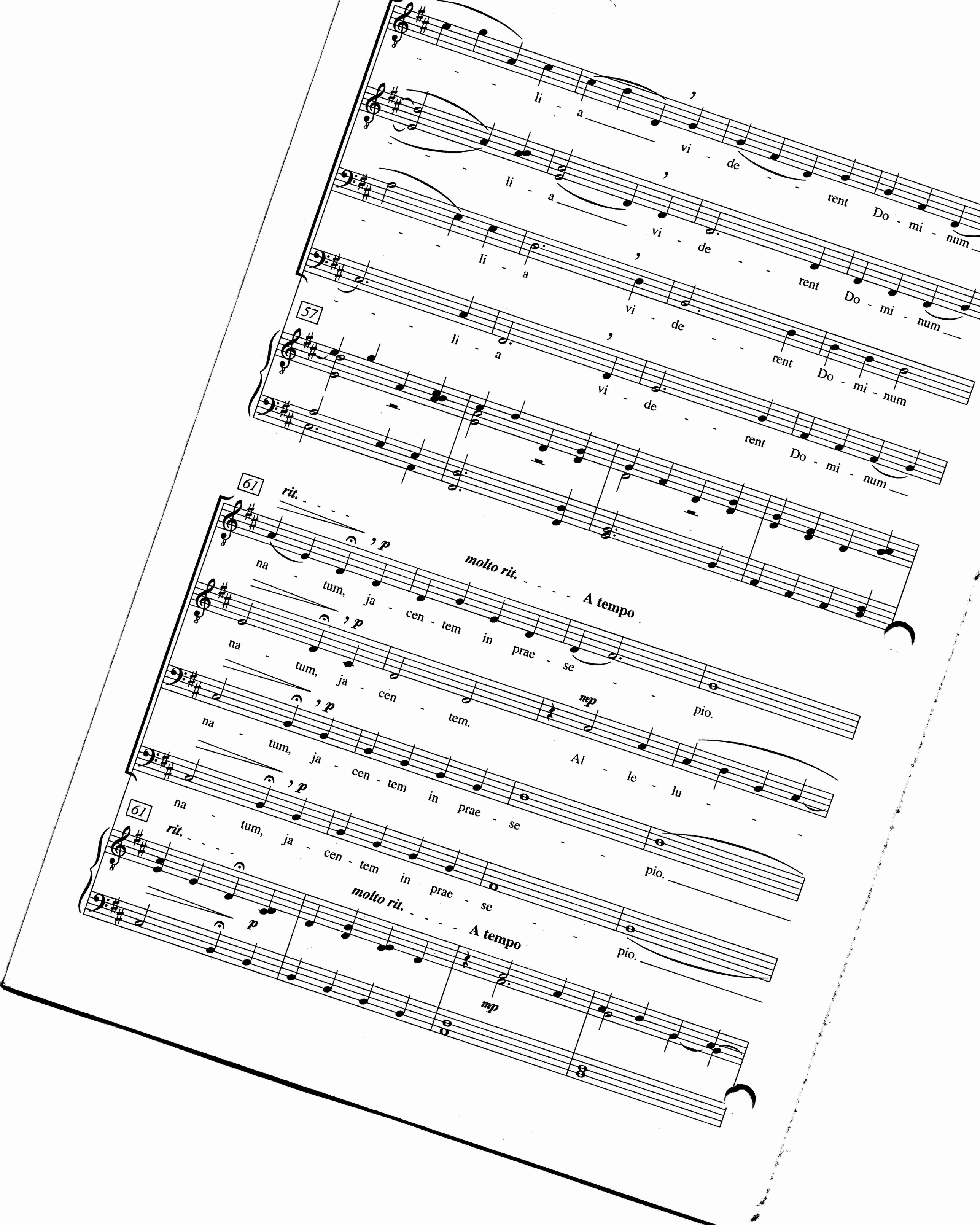
- - ia! sa - cra - men - tum, ut a - ni - ma - - -

um, et ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men - tum, ut a - ni - ma - - -

- ri - um, sa - cra - men - tum, ut a - ni - ma - - -

- - ia! sa - cra - men - tum, ut a - ni - ma - - -

53


57
li - a, vi - de - rent Do - mi - num
li - a, vi - de - rent Do - mi - num
li - a, vi - de - rent Do - mi - num
li - a, vi - de - rent Do - mi - num
61
rit.
p
molto rit.
A tempo
na - tum, ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pio.
na - tum, ja - cen - tem.
mp
Al - le - lu -
na - tum, ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pio.
61
rit.
p
molto rit.
A tempo
na - tum, ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pio.
mp

65 *poco rit.* - - - - **A tempo**

mp

Al - le - lu - ia!

- - - - ia!

, *mp*

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - - - - -

, *mp*

Al - le - lu - - - - - - -

65 *poco rit.* - - - - **A tempo**

mp

69 *molto rit.* - - - - - - - - - - **Meno mosso**

mp *pp* *ppp*

Al - - le - lu - - - - - ia!

, *pp* *ppp*

Al - le - - lu - - - ia!

, *pp* *ppp*

ia! Al - le - - lu - - - ia!

, *pp* *ppp*

ia! Al - le - - lu - - - ia!

69 *molto rit.* - - - - - - - - - - **Meno mosso**

pp *ppp*

engraving by G. Hills

(ca. 6'00")

Morten Lauridsen

Ave Maria ..... SATB Chorus a cappella

Ave Dulcissima Maria ..... TTBB a cappella

Les Chansons des Roses (Rilke) ..... SATB Chorus and Piano

Cuatro Canciones (Lorca) ..... High Voice, Clarinet, Cello and Piano

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..... TTBB or SSAA Chorus and Piano
..... High or Medium Voice and Piano
..... Mixed Duet (High or Medium Voices) and Piano
..... High Voice and Guitar

Lux Aeterna ..... SATB Chorus and Chamber Orchestra
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..... SATB Chorus and Organ (or Piano)

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Mid-Winter Songs on Poems by Robert Graves ..... SATB Chorus and Orchestra
(Piano/Vocal Score Available from Opus Music Publishers, Inc.)

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..... TTBB Chorus a cappella
..... Medium Voice and Piano or Organ

Nocturnes (Rilke, Neruda, Agee) ..... SATB Chorus and Piano

O Nata Lux ..... SATB Chorus a cappella

Ubi Caritas et Amor ..... SATB Chorus a cappella

Where Have the Actors Gone ..... Voice and Piano

A Winter Come (Moss) ..... Medium Voice and Piano

All-Morten Lauridsen Recordings

"*Lauridsen: Lux Aeterna,*" The Los Angeles Master Chorale,
Paul Salamunovich conducting, on the Grammy-nominated CD RCM 19705

"*Lauridsen – Nocturnes,*" Polyphony, Britten Sinfonia
Steven Layton conducting, on Hyperion CD 67580

"*Lux Aeterna,*" Polyphony, Britten Sinfonia,
Steven Layton conducting, on Hyperion CD 67449

"*O Magnum Mysterium,*" The Nordic Chamber Choir,
Nicol Matt conducting, on Bayer 100305

"*Lauridsen: Northwest Journey,*" RCM 12001