

Full Score

Prelude, Illusion, and Magic

for open instrumentation

*from the Poetry of
George William Russell*

2015

David Dean Mendoza

Program Notes

Prelude, Illusion, and Magic was written in March of 2015 at the Banff Centre for male or female voice and open instrumentation.

About the Poet

George William Russell (1867-1935) was an Irish writer, editor, poet, critic, and painter. His writing deals with mysticism and was a follower of theosophy (god's wisdom)– a philosophy that deals with seeking direct knowledge of the divinity and the nature of being.

All Poetry by George William Russell (1867-1935)

Prelude: By Still Waters

Oh, be not led away,
Lured by the colour of the sun-rich day.
The gay romance of song
Unto the spirit life doth not belong:
Though far-between the hours
In which the Master of Angelic powers
Lightens the dusk within
The holy of holies, be it thine to win
Rare vistas of white light,
Half parted lips through which the Infinite
Murmurs her ancient story,
Harkening to whom the wandering planets hoary
Waken primeval fires,
With deeper rapture in celestial choirs
Breathe, and with fleeter motion
Wheel in their orbits through the surgeless ocean.
So hearken thou like these,
Intent on her, mounting by slow degrees,
Until thy song's elation
Echoes her multitudinous meditation.

Illusion

What is the love of shadowy lips
That know not what they seek or press,
From whom the lure for ever slips
And fails their phantom tenderness?

The mystery and light of eyes
That near to mine grow dim and cold;
They move afar in ancient skies
Mid flame and mystic darkness rolled.

O, beauty, as thy heart o'erflows
In tender yielding unto me,
A vast desire awakes and grows
Unto forgetfulness of thee.

Magic

--After reading the Upanishads

Out of the dusky chamber of the brain
Flows the imperial will through dream on dream;
The fires of life around it tempt and gleam;
The lights of earth behind it fade and wane.

Passed beyond beauty tempting dream on dream,
The pure will seeks the hearthold of the light;
Sounds the deep "OM," the mystic word of might;
Forth from the hearthold breaks the living stream.

Passed out beyond the deep heart music-filled,
The kingly Will sits on the ancient throne,
Wielding the sceptre, fearless, free, alone,
Knowing in Brahma all it dared and willed.

Prelude: By Still Waters

David Dean Mendoza

Declamato

Each vocal phrase should "swell," meaning it should start slow and get slightly faster and then slow down when approaching each fermata as in a chant, except when indicated.

Male or Female Voice

f

Oh, be not led a - way, Lured by the col - our of the sun - rich day.

Elaborate and improvise (in a Medieval style) within each improvisation box.
If certain harmonies do not fit idiomatically on the instrument, instrumental performers may simplify harmonies or leave them out.

Open instrumentaiton

dynamics should accompany voice

Voce

poco meno *mf* **Più mosso.....a tempo** *f*

The gay ro - mance of song Un - to the spir - it life doth not be - long

Instr.

mp *mf* *mp*

Voce

Though far - be-tween the hour - s In which the Mas - ter of An - gel - ic pow - ers Ligh - tens

Instr.

Voce

Più mosso.....a tempo.....meno *f* *mf* *mp* **a tempo**

the dusk with-in the ho - ly of ho - lies be it thine to win Rare vis - tas of light Half par - ted lips

Instr.

Voce

mf *mp* *f*

through which the in - fin - ite mur - murs her an - cient stor - y, Har - ken - ing

Instr.

poco più mosso *ff* *f* *ff*

Voice: to whom the wan - der - ing pla - nets ho - ary wa - ken prim - e - val fi -

Instr. [Chordal accompaniment]

a tempo **poco più mosso** **a tempo** *f*

Voice: res, With dee - per ra - p - ture in cel - es - ti - al choi - rs Breathe, and with flee - ter mo - tion

Instr. [Chordal accompaniment]

poco meno **Molto meno mosso.....**
Drammatico *mf* *ff*

Voice: Whe - el in their or - bits through the surge - less o - cean. So hear - ken thou like these,

Instr. [Chordal accompaniment]

f *mf* **tempo primo**

Voice: In - tent - on her, moun - ting by slow de - gre - es, Un - til thy song's e -

Instr. [Chordal accompaniment]

più mosso **rit.....** *mp* *p*

Voice: la - tion Ec - hoes her mul - ti - tu - din - ous me - di - ta - tion.

Instr. [Chordal accompaniment]

Illusion

Misterioso

p *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

Voice: What is the lo - ve of sha-dow - y lips That know not what they se - ek or press, From whom the

Instr.

meno mosso

mp *p* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Voice: lure for e - ver slips And fails their phan-tom ten-der - ness? The mys - ter-y and light of

Instr.

a tempo

mp *mf*

Voice: eyes That near to mine grow dim and cold; They move a - far in an-cient skies Mid flame and

Instr.

f

Voice: mys-tic dark-ness roll - ed. O, beau-ty as thy heart o' - er flows In ten - der yield-ing un -

Instr.

ff *f* *mf* *mp* *p* *n.*

Voice: to me, A vast de - si - re A - wakes and grows Un - to for-get-ful - ness of thee.

Instr.

Magic

Misterioso

p \rceil *mp* \rceil *p* \rceil *mp*

Voice
Out of the dus - ky cham-ber of the brain Flows the im - pe - ri - al will through dream on

Instr.

mf \rceil *f* *mf* \rceil *mp* *p* \rceil *mp*

Voice
dream; the fire of life a-round it tempt and gleam; The lights of earth be - hind it fade

Instr.

p *mp* \rceil *f* \rceil *mf* \rceil *f* *sfz*

molto meno **a tempo**

Voice
and wane. Passed be - yond beu - ty temp - ting dream on dream The pure will seeks the heart-hold of

Instr.

mf \rceil *mp* \rceil *mf* \rceil *mp*

Voice
the light; Sounds the deep "OM," the mys - tic word of might; Forth from the heart -

Instr.

più mosso **a tempo** **più mosso** **a tempo meno mosso**

ff \rceil *f* \rceil *mf*

Voice
hold breaks the liv - ing stream passed out be-yond the deep heart mu - sic filled, the king - ly will

Instr.

a tempo

Voice

sits on the an - cient throne wiel - ding the scep - tre fear -

Instr.

rit.....

Voice

less free a - lone know - ing in Brah - ma all it dared and willed.

Instr.