

"Entflieht auf leichten Kähnen..."

für gemischten Chor a cappella

Text by: Stefan George

Anton Webern
Op. 2

Zart bewegt ♩ = 112

Zeit lassen -----

Soprano

Alt

Tenor

Bass

Klavierauszug*

*Note: The piano reduction has been created for ease of playing in rehearsal.
On occasions the flow of the parts has been altered to allow for this.

1

5

im - mer mil - dre Trä - nen daß im - mer mil - dre Trä - nen

im - mer mil - dre Trä - nen daß im - mer mil - dre Trä - nen

im - mer mil - dre Trä - nen daß im - mer mil - dre Trä - nen

Son - nen - wel - ten daß - im - mer mil - dre Trä - nen daß im - mer

Son - nen - wel - ten daß - im - mer mil - dre Trä - nen daß im - mer

poco rit.

$\text{♪} = 72$ übergehend

8

euch eu - re Flucht ent - gel - ten ent - gel - ten. Seht

euch eu - re Flucht ent - gel - ten Seht die - sen

mil - dre Trä - nen euch eu - re Flucht ent - gel - ten

mil - dre Trä - nen euch eu - re Flucht ent - gel - ten

2

in $\text{♪} = 80$

hervortretend p

11

— die - sen Tau - mel blon - der licht - blau - er Traum -

Tau - mel blon - der licht - blau - er Traum - ge - wal - ten und

Seht die - sen Tau - mel Seht die - sen Tau - mel

Seht die - sen Tau - mel blon - der

Zeit lassen - - - - - poco rit(bis Tempo I) 3

$\text{♪} = 72$

13

- ge - wal - ten und trunk - ner Won - nen son - der Ver - zü - ckung sich ent -

trunk - ner Won - nen son - der Ver - zü - ckung sich ent - fal - ten. Daß

blon - der licht - blau - er Traum - ge - wal - ten und trunk - ner Won - nen

licht - blau - er Traum - ge - wal - ten und trunk - ner Won - nen son - der Ver - zü - ckung

hervortretend

15

fal - ten. Daß nicht der sü - - be Schau - er in neu - es Leid euch

nicht der sü - - be Schau - er in neu - es Leid euch hü - le

son - der Ver - zü - ckung sich ent - fal - ten. Daß nicht der sü - - be

sich ent - fal - ten. Daß nicht der sü - - be Schau - er in neu - es

3

H

hü - - le *euch hü - le* *Es sei die stil - le*

euch hü - le *kaum hörbar* *Es sei die stil - le*

Schau - er in neu - es Leid *euch hü - le* *Es*

verschwindend

Leid *euch hü - le* *Es*

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

4

Zeit lassen -----

Träu - er die die - sen Früh - ling fül - le es sei die stil - le

Träu - er die die - sen Früh - ling fül - le es sei die stil - le

sei die stil - le Trau - er die die - sen Früh - ling fül - le es

sei die stil - le Trau - er die die - sen Früh - ling fül - le es

pp

pp

pp

rit. ----- gehaltener ♩ = 80 rit. -----

23

Trauer die stil - le Trauer die stil - le Trauer die die - sen Früh - ling die - sen
Trauer die stil - le Trauer die stil - le Trauer die die - sen Früh - ling die - sen
sei die stil - le Trauer die die - sen Früh - ling füll - le die die - sen
sei die stil - le Trauer die die - sen Früh - ling füll - le die die - sen

5 langsam ♩ = 60 poco rit. ♩ = 52 ----- wie ein Hauch

26

Früh - ling füll - le die - sen Früh - ling füll - le.
Früh - ling füll - le die - sen Früh - ling füll - le.
Früh - ling die - sen Früh - ling die - sen Früh - ling wie ein Hauch le.
Früh - ling die - sen Früh - ling die - sen Früh - ling füll - le.

Some Notes on "Entflieht auf leichten Kähnen..."

Webern wrote this early nearly atonal double canon "Entflieht auf leichten Kähnen..." (his Op.2) in 1908. The work is a testimony to the tutelage of Schönberg who was the leader of a small group of highly dedicated composers whose work had broken away from the traditional dependence on the tonal system. Ultimately this movement became the 'Twelve-Note' or 'Dodecaphonic' school based around the work of Arnold Schönberg.

Webern was also highly influenced by the music of the Renaissance composer Heinrich Isaac (1450-1517) who was the basis for Webern's doctoral thesis at the University of Vienna which was granted in 1906. In his Opus 2 work, Webern clearly shows his ability to think both in a highly structured form (the double canon) clearly influenced by Isaac, and through strongly dissonant harmonies which must owe a great debt to his work with Schönberg. The poet, Stefan George, became very influential to Webern. Though little known, George is one of the the most prominent German Symbolist writers of the late 19th/early 20th centuries. Webern relies heavily on George's texts in this and many other later works.

"Entflieht auf leichten Kähnen..." is most unusual in the choral repertoire. Here the beauty of the line is slightly masked by the needs of the canon and the lack of an obvious tonal centre even though the piece clearly begins and ends in G major! The choir which tackles this piece must have singers with an exemplary sense of pitch - the intervals are often quite unusual and the melodic lines, for that is what each part is, are not classically normal. The overall effect, however, is one of real and genuine beauty.

Much of the writing requires the choir to take its time to savour the phrases and the harmonies. With a great deal of practice, the interplay between the two canonic elements will shine through.

Translation of the key musical markings

Zart bewegt	=	tender movement
Zeit lassen	=	allow time (space)
hervortretend	=	move forward
verschwindend	=	disappearing
kaum hörbar	=	hardly audible
langsam	=	slowly
gemischten Chor	=	mixed choir