Damijan Močnik

Adventus Domini nostri Jesu Christi

A Cantata for Soprano Solo, SATB Double Choir and Percussion Ensemble

AS 34.041/10

CHORAL SCORE



"Every year, on the seven days before Christmas Eve (December 17-23), I've sung Advent prayers at Vespers in my church. This singing of the famous "O Antiphons" is a tradition well-rooted in the Slovenian Catholic tradition. As a composer, these texts present me with very rich symbolism and raise within me many creative and interesting sound images.

When Marko Vatovec, guest conductor of the *Slovenski komorni zbor* (The Slovenian Chamber Choir from Ljubljana, Slovenia), commissioned me to write a lengthy composition for the choir's Advent concert, I decided to make a setting of the "O Antiphons."

From the beginning of the score, I've melodically rooted all seven antiphons in Gregorian chant. With the micro-canon's unison and fifth, the chant is awash in a palette of sound which is enhanced and colored by various percussion instruments. However, the chant always appears again in recognizable form, like a phoenix rising from the ashes.

In the middle five antiphons, the text dictated to me very different sound images, therefore the chant is recognizable only here and there. For example, the pleading word "Veni" (Come) is a "red thread" within the texts, always presenting a G-major chord as a foundation of the entire cantata.

Percussion instruments not onlycolor the choral sounds, they also

provide direct comment on the text, sometimes even taking over the driving momentum of the music. I am trying to come closer to the meaning of the words with specific choices of percussion instruments. For example, in the 4th movement "O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)" only wooden percussion instruments are used, and in the 6th movement "O Clavis David (O Key of David)" metal percussion instruments predominate.

The text of the Magnificat, the Song of Mary, is scored for unaccompanied soprano voice, thereby providing a stark contrast of performing forces: the full-sounding 8-part mixed choir with rich palette of percussion instruments versus a very expressive solo vocal line. The virtuoso writing in the solo vocal line literally embodies each individual word, as if imprinting the text into the memory of performer and listener alike.

With the final antiphon, "O Emmanuel," the chant is heard again, sounding first in the percussion instruments, then in the choir. The chant is further harmonized in theancient fauxbordon style, repeated and interlaced in a broad pallate of sound. The "Amen" sounds a final solemn statement with its musical repetition of all seven names of the coming Saviour."

Damijan Močnik, December 2007 / Marian Dolan, English editing

The first performance of Adventus Domini Jesu Christi was given on 16 December 2007

in the Slovenian Philharmonic Great Hall, Ljubljana, Slovenia,

Premiere Performers: Marta Močnik-Pirc, soprano

Slovenski komorni zbor / Slovenian Chamber Choir Franci Kevh, Matevž Bajde, Darko Gorenc - percussion

Marko Vatovec, conductor

Adventus Domini Jesu Christi was commisioned by the Slovenski komorni zbor / Slovenian Chamber Choir and Marko Vatovec

The text is taken from the O Antiphons and the Magnificat

Duration: ca. 60 minutes

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Adventus Domini nostri Iesu Christi

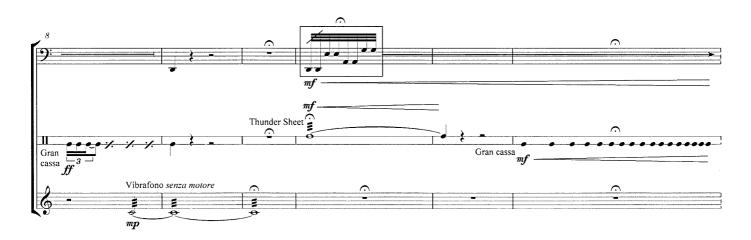
A Cantata for Soprano Solo, SATB Double Choir and Percussion Ensemble

1. O Sapientia

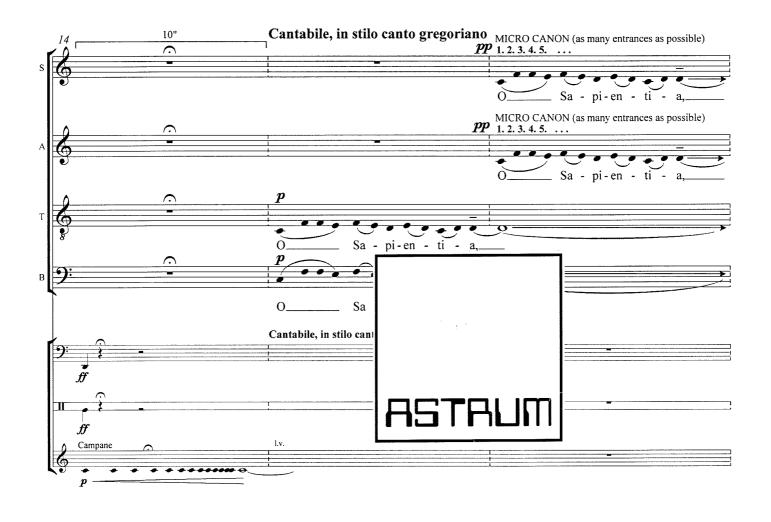
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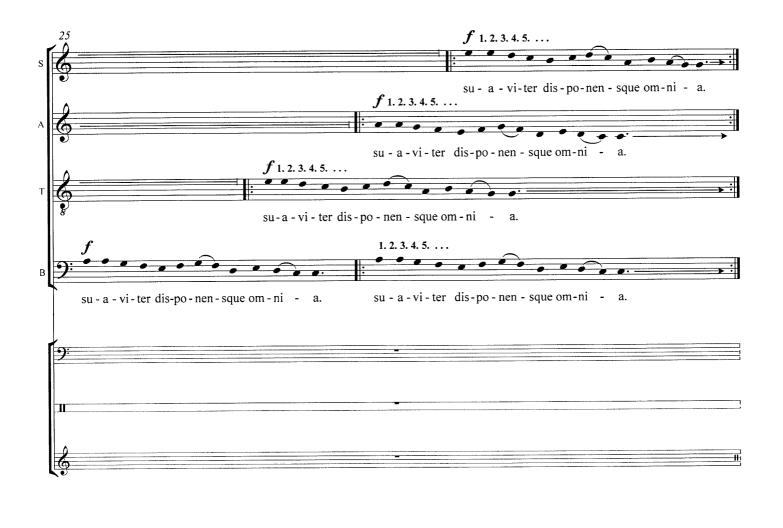


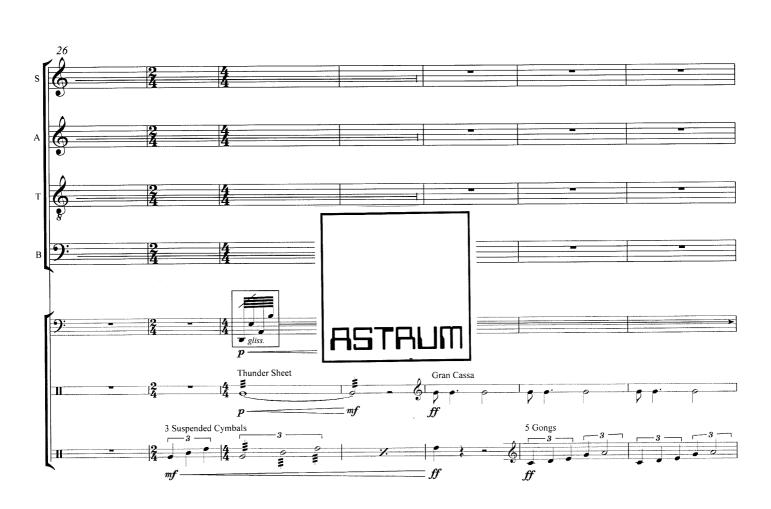
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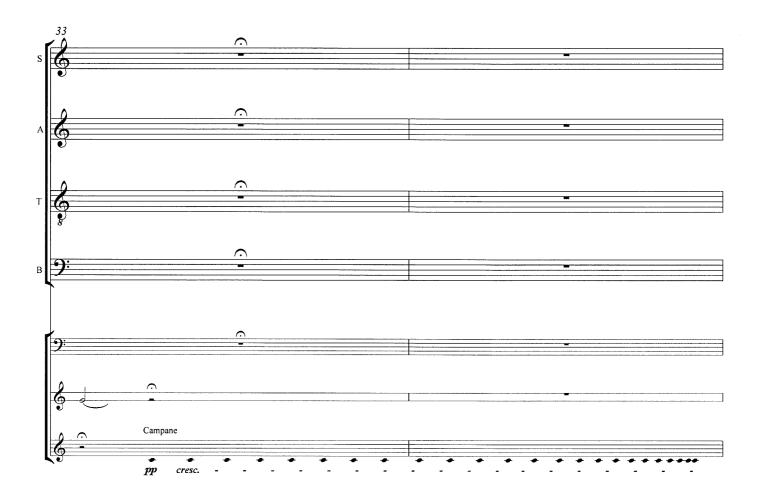


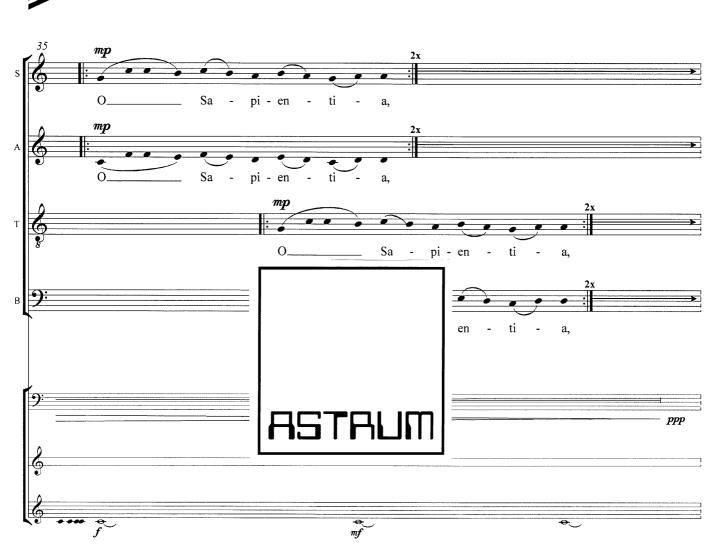


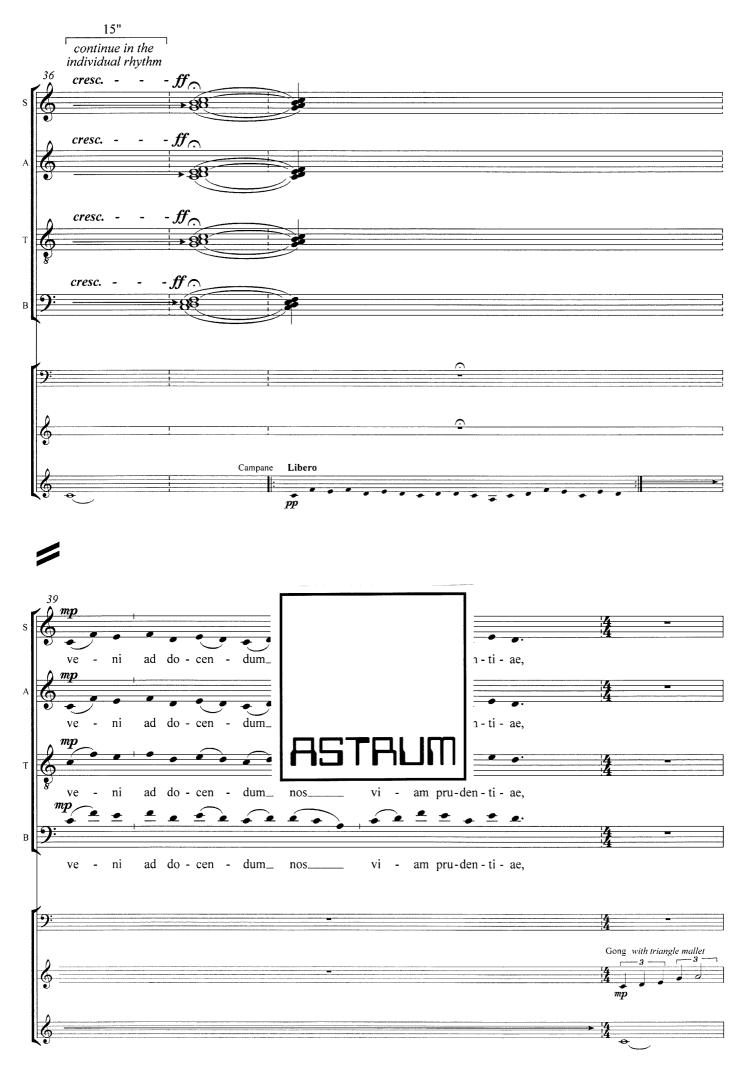


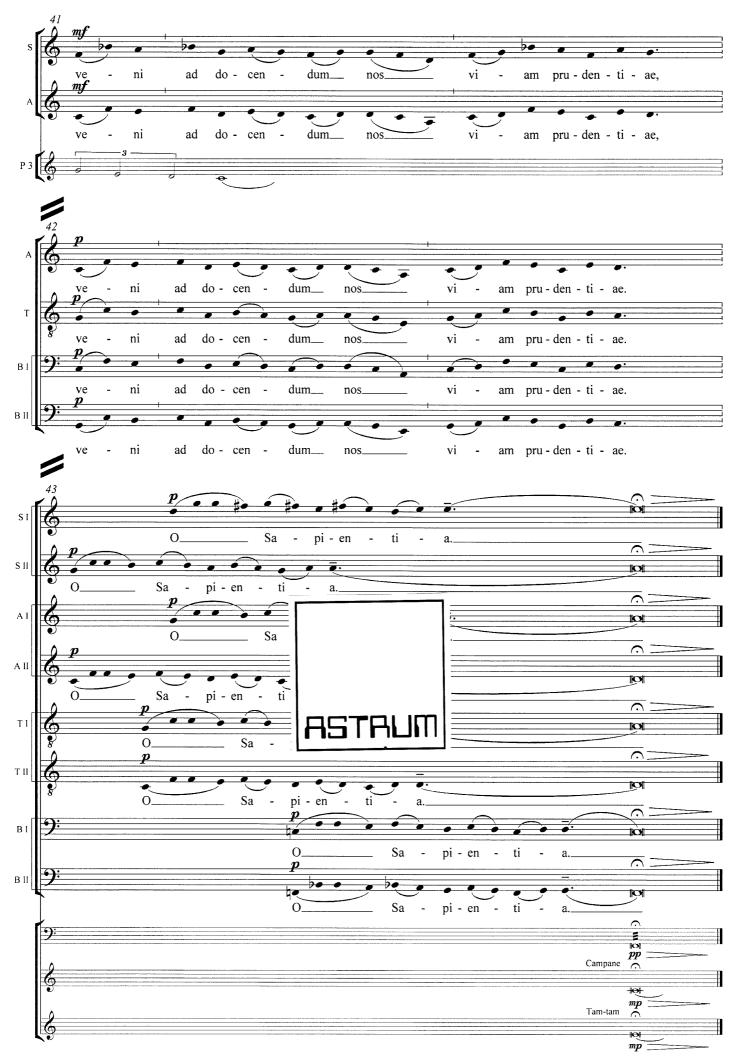












2. Magnificat I

Magnificat anima mea

for Soprano Solo











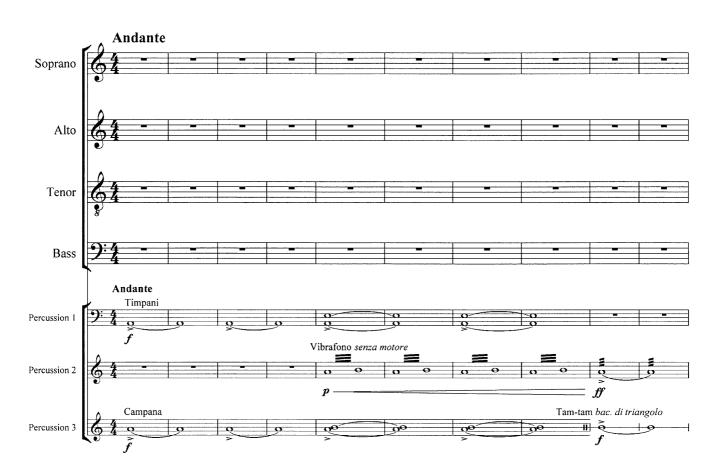




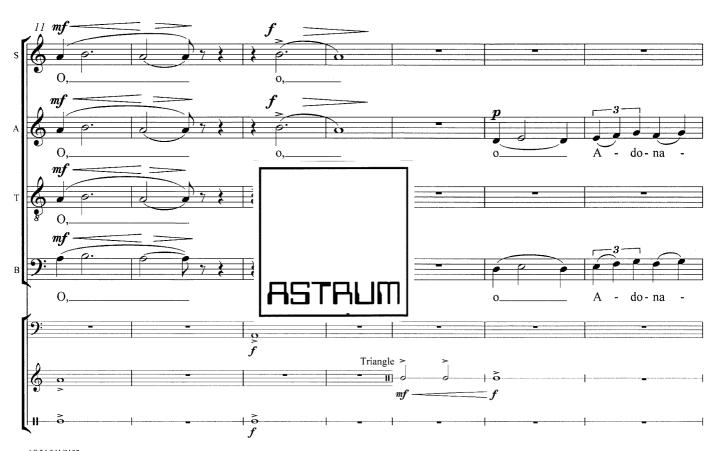


3. O Adonai

for SATB Double Choir and Percussion Ensemble

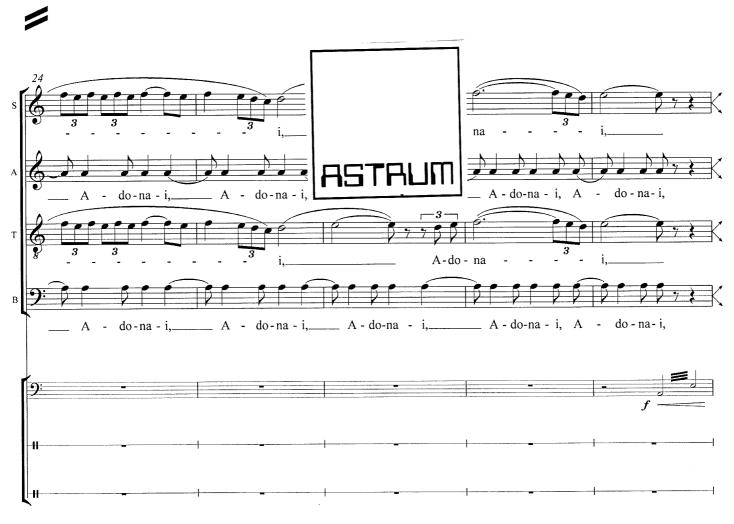






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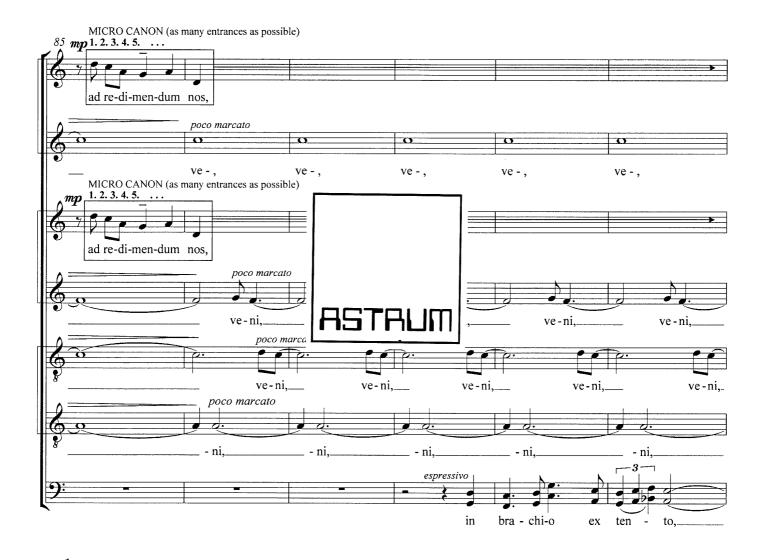




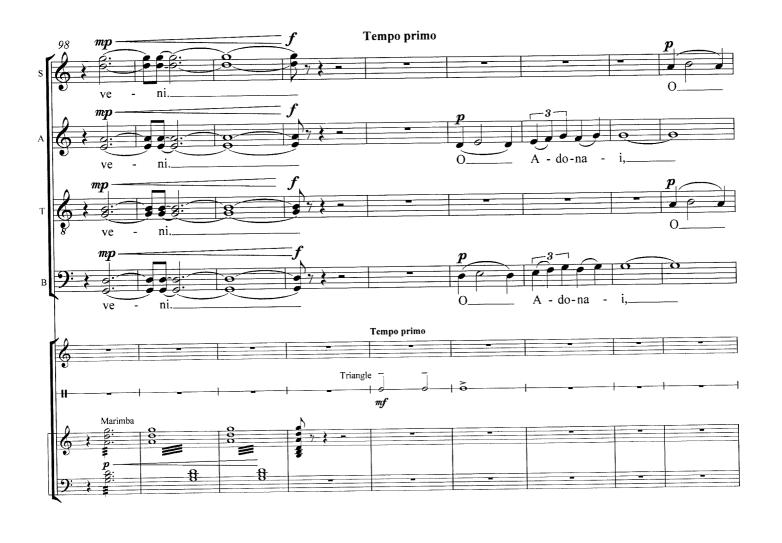








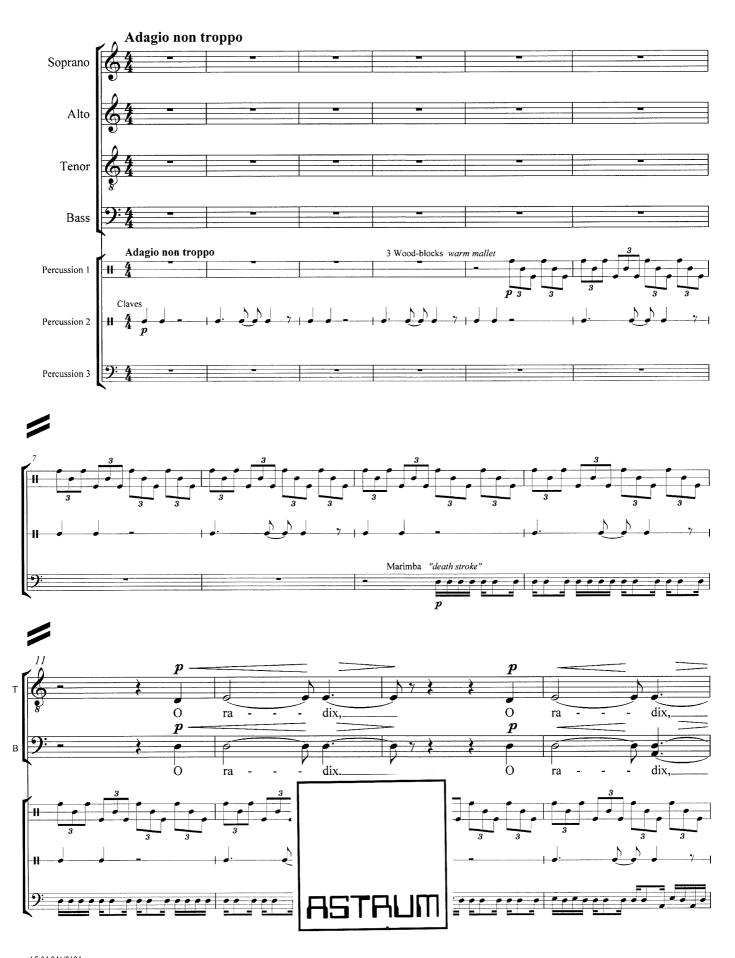






4. O Radix Iesse

for SATB Double Choir and Percussion Ensemble



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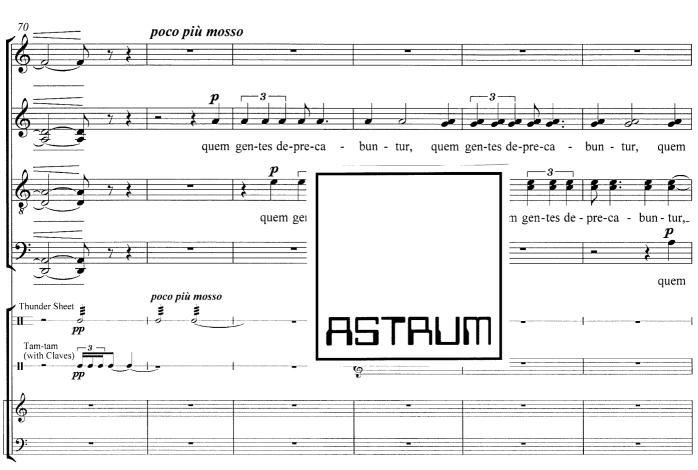


















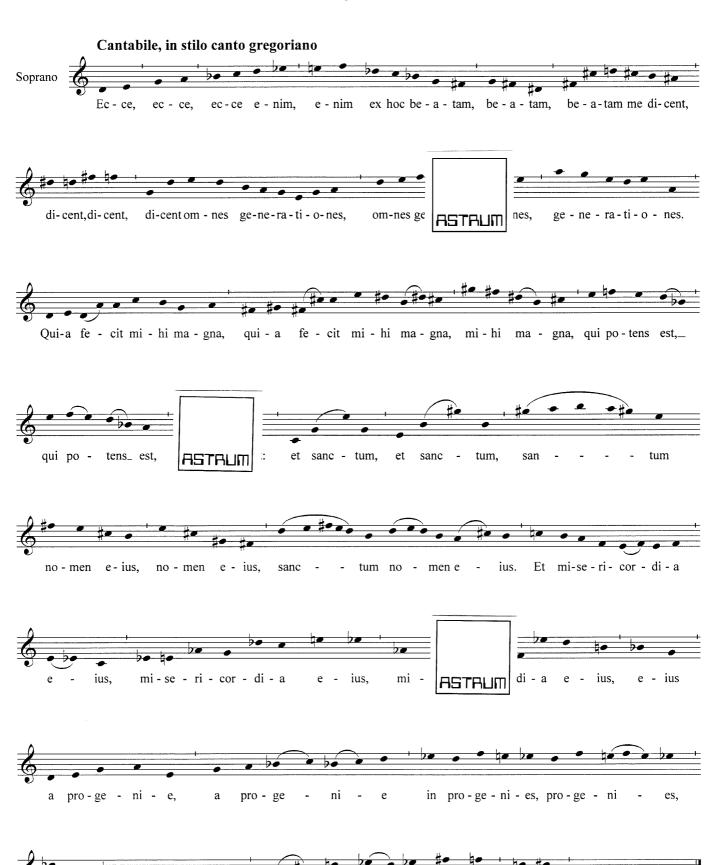




5. Magnificat II

Ecce enim

for Soprano Solo



ti-men - ti-bus

um.

men - ti

bus

ti

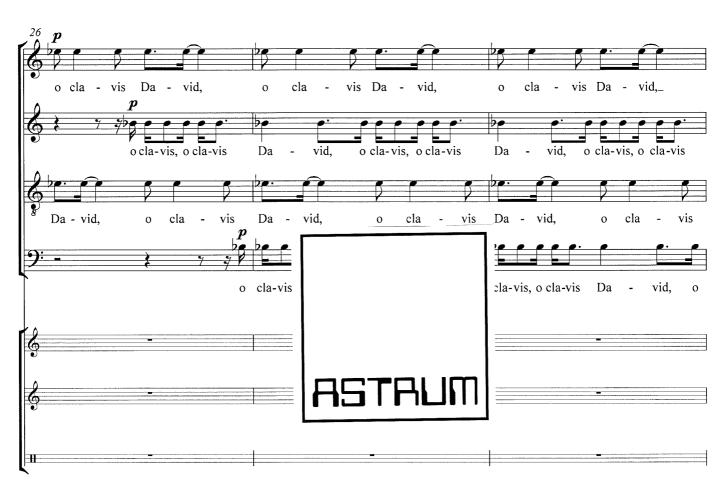
um,

6. O Clavis David

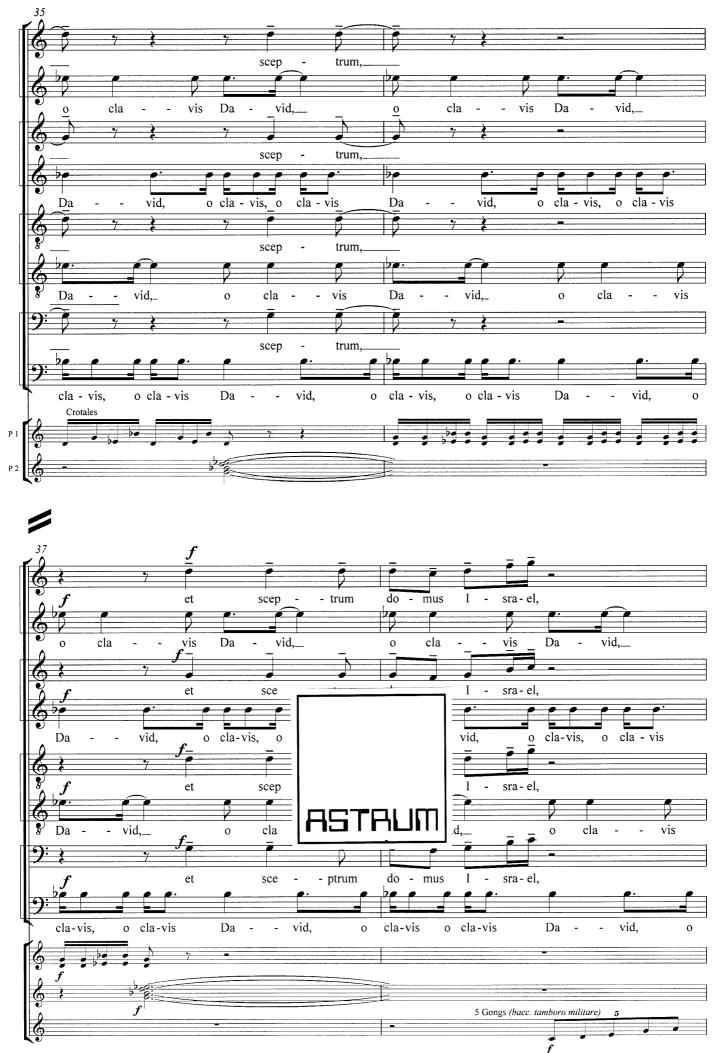
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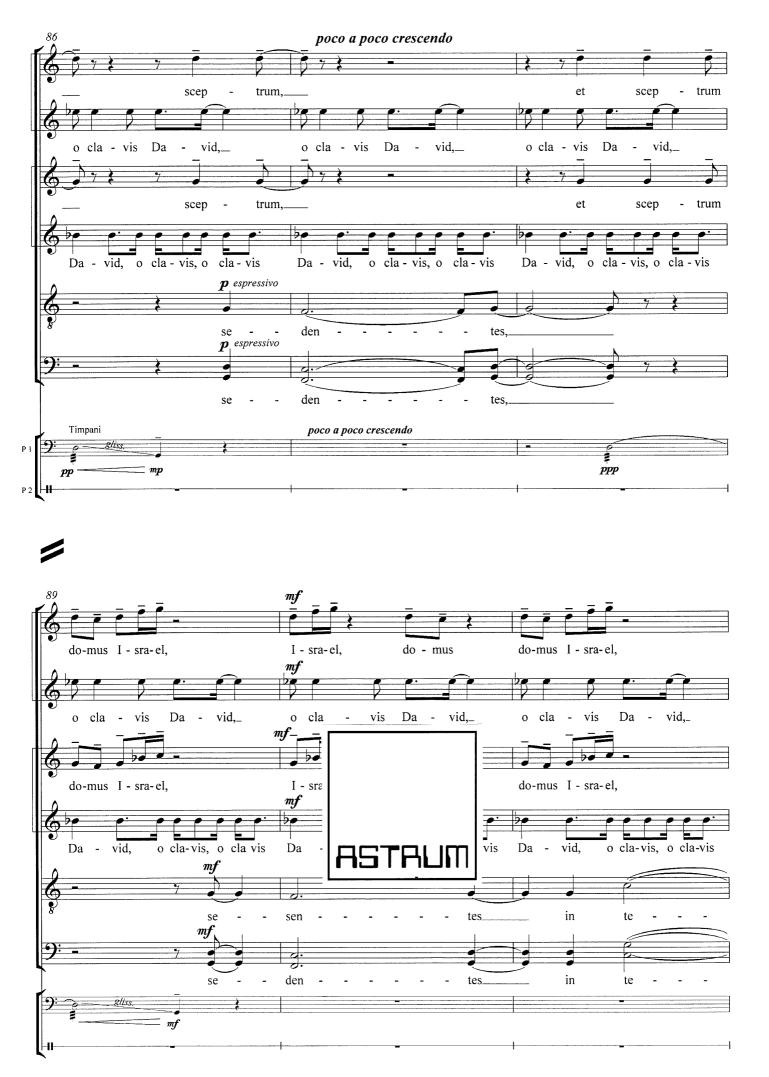
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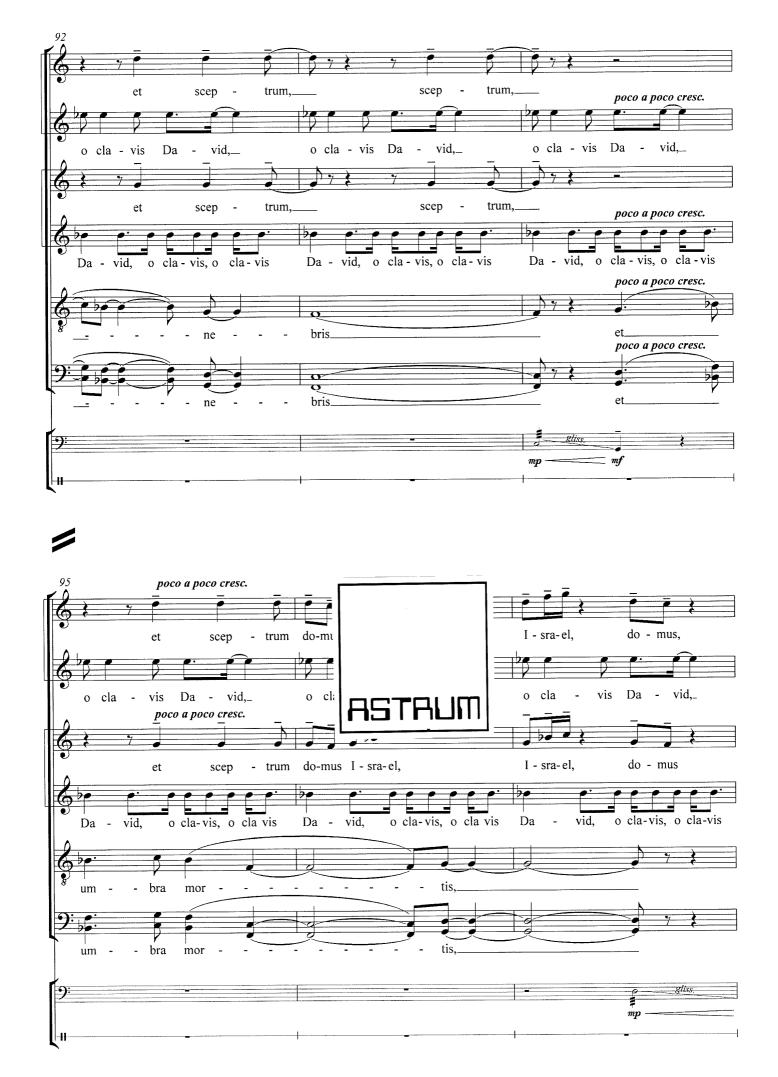








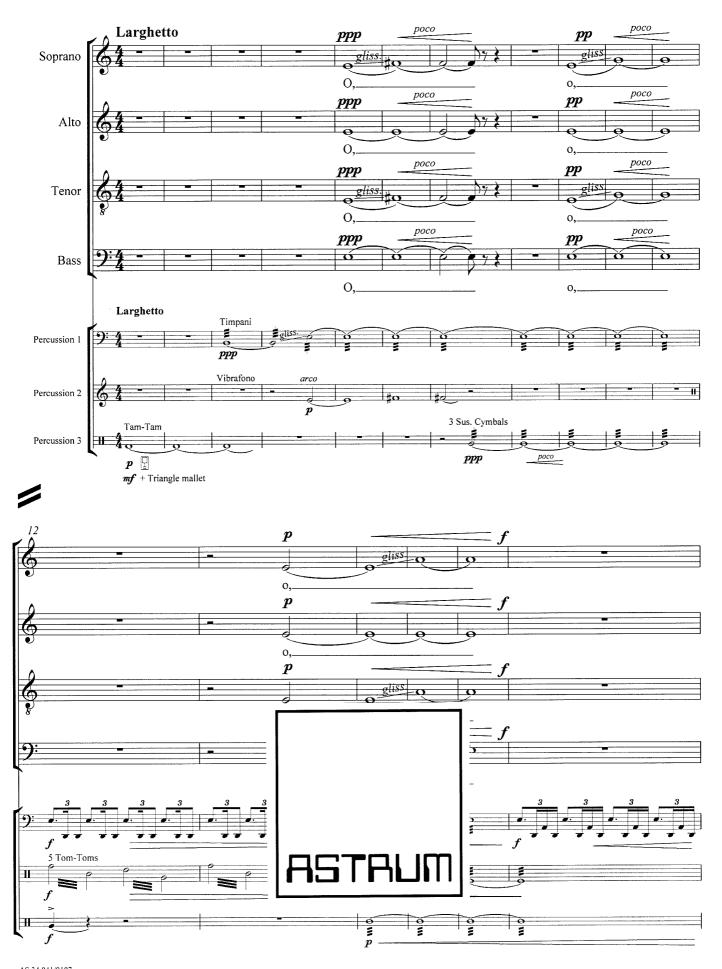




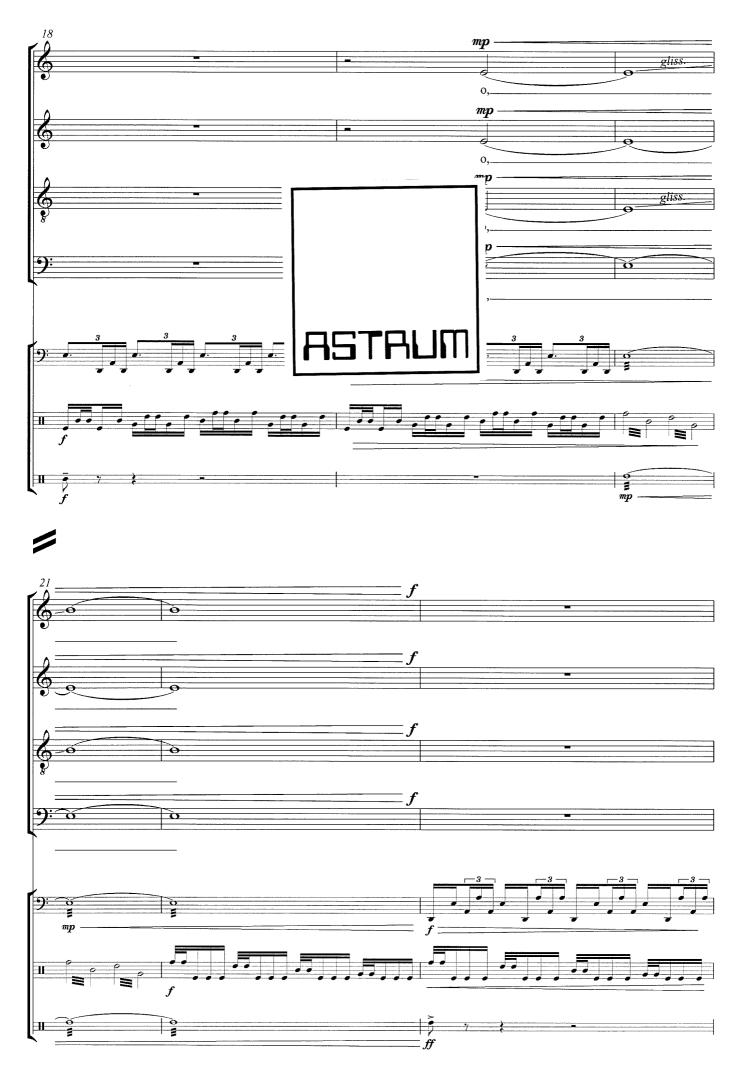


7. O Oriens

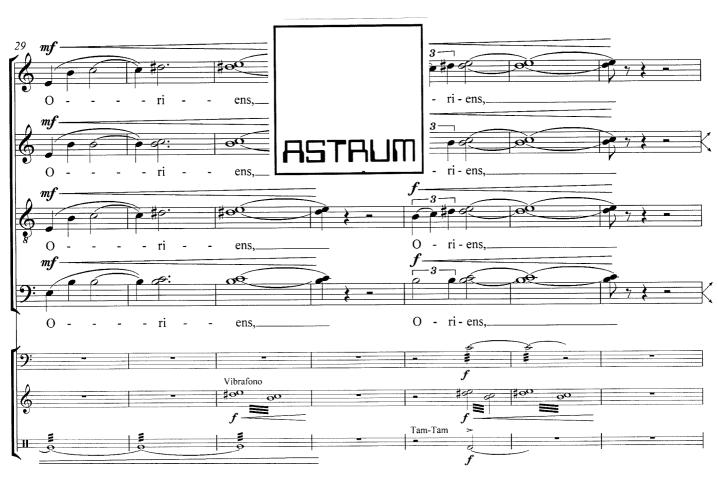
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8. Magnificat III

Fecit potentiam

for Soprano Solo

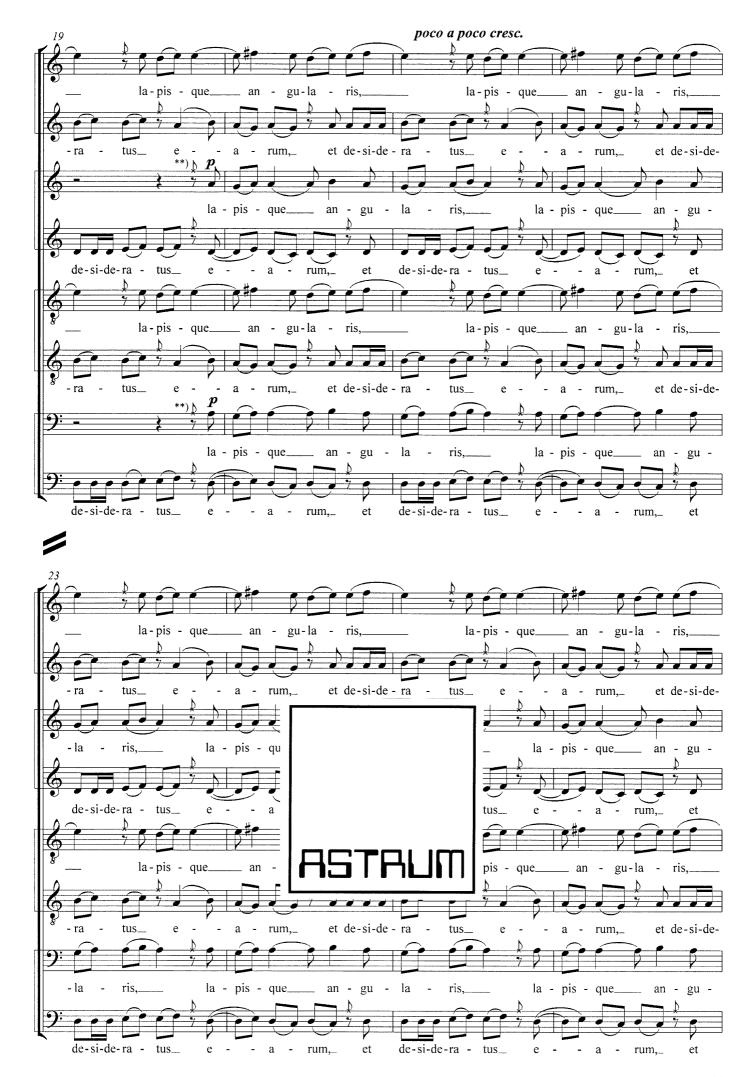


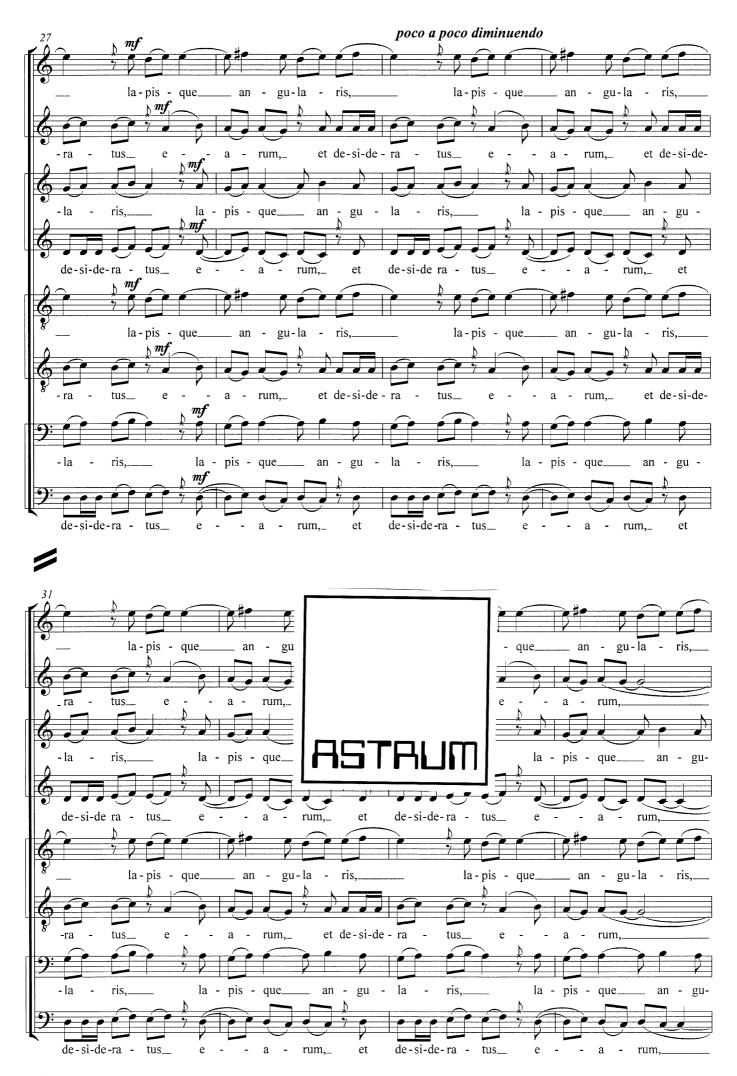
9. O Rex gentium for SATB Double Choir and Percussion Ensemble





*) One of the singers of S. (A., T. & B.) II strikes on ancient cymbals. AS 34.041/01 **) One of the singers of S. (A., T. & B.) I strikes on claves.



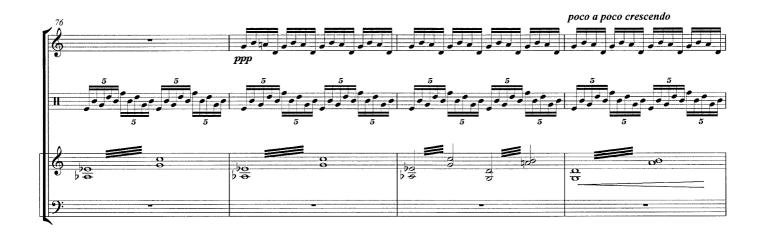








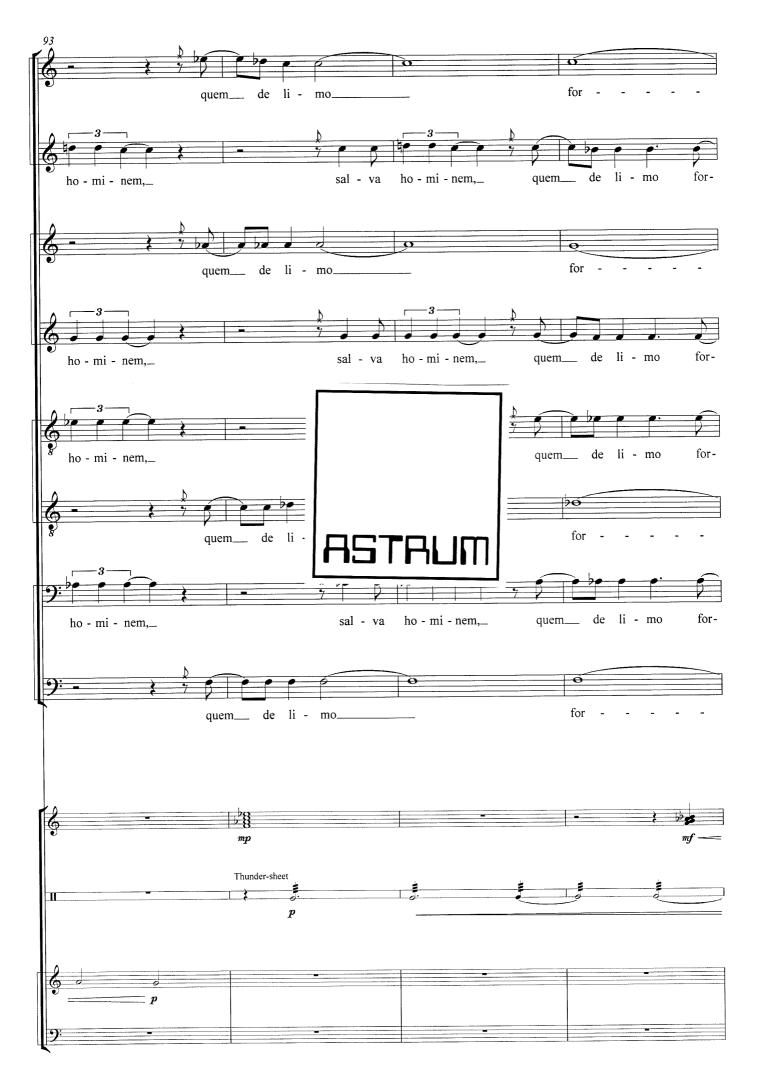








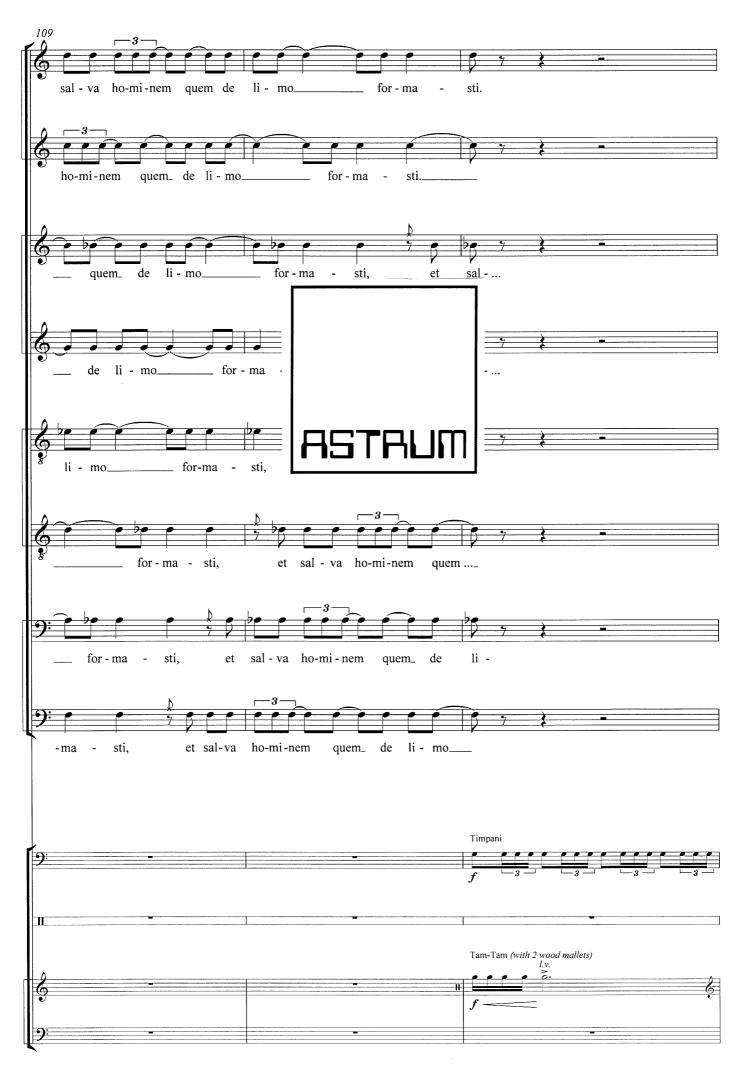








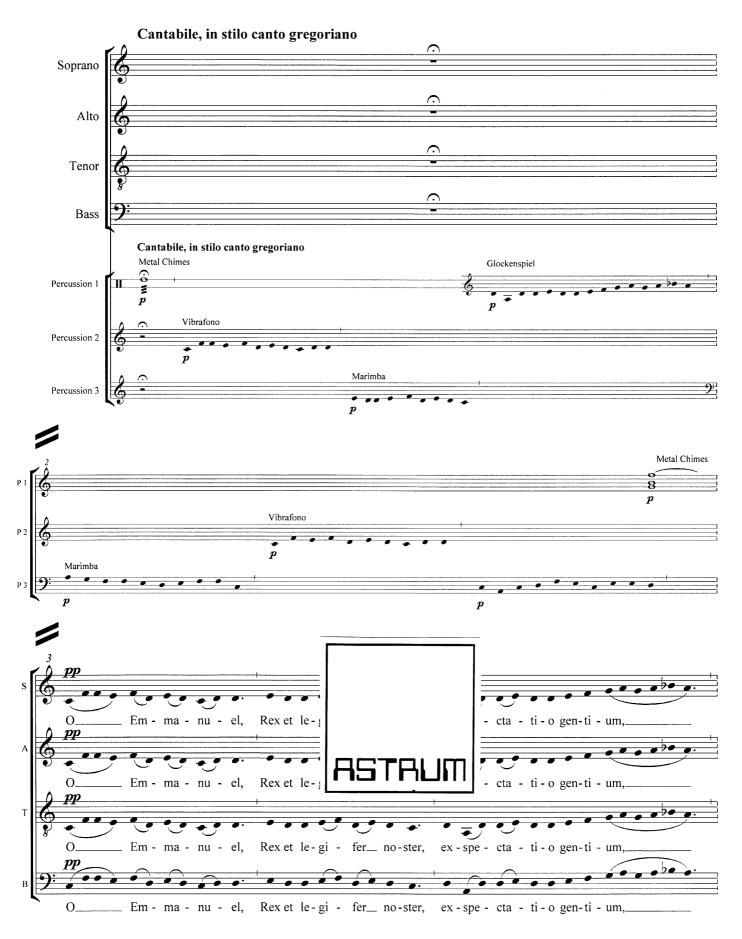




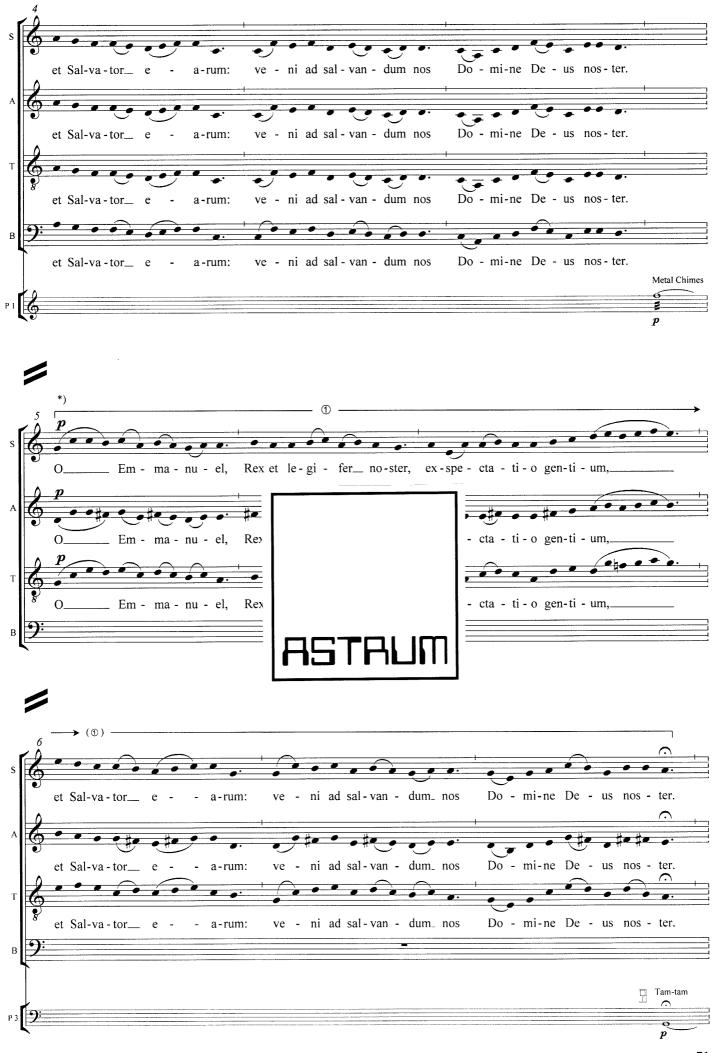


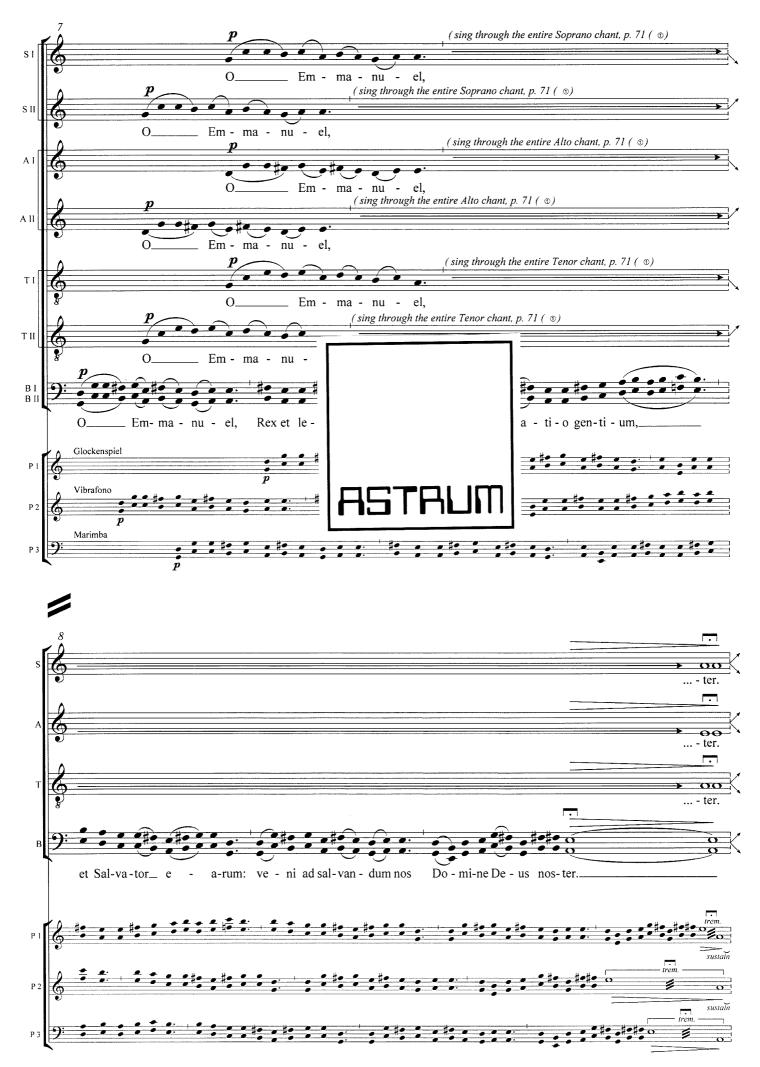
10. O Emmanuel

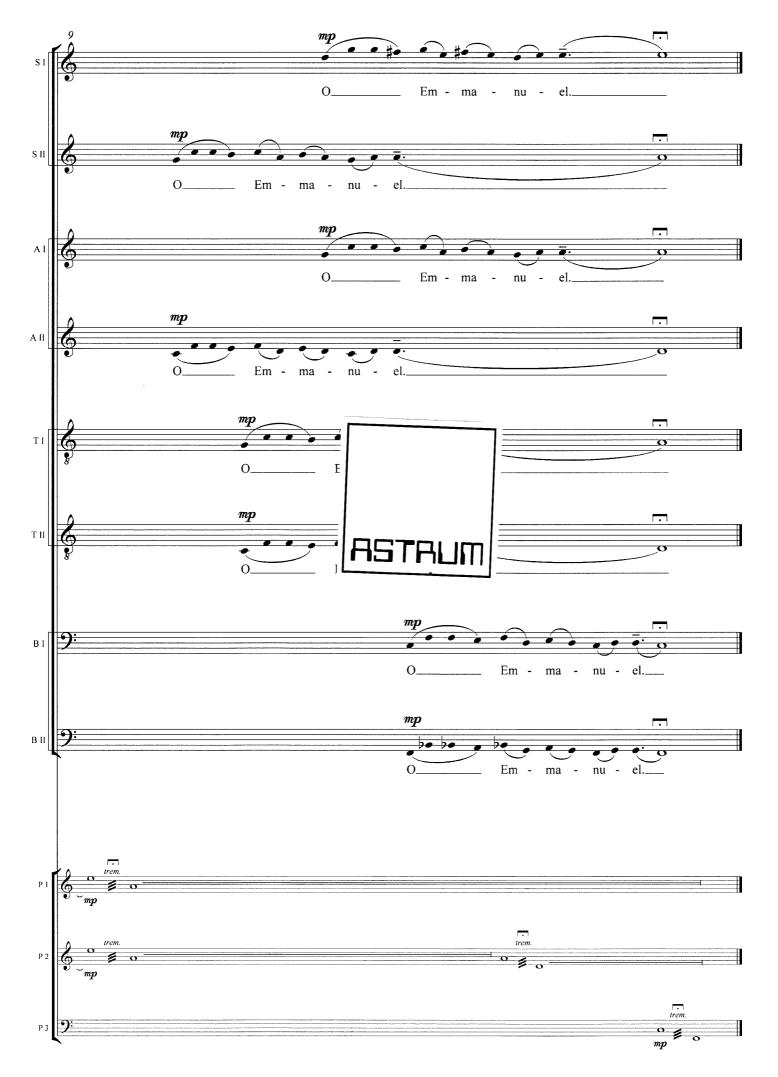
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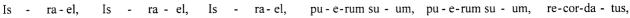
11. Magnificat IV

Suscepit Israel

for Soprano Solo











Si-cut lo-cu-tus est, lo-cu-tus est, si-cut lo-cu-tus est, lo-cu-tus est ad pa-tres no-stros, pa-tres no-stros,





12. Finale

Amen

for Soprano Solo, SATB Double Choir and Percussion Ensemble



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