

Gordon Thornett

**ORGAN PRELUDE FOR
ADVENT**

“Let all mortal flesh keep silence.”

**PROCESSIONAL TO PRECEDE
“CHERUBIC HYMN” FOR
CHOIR & ORCHESTRA**

(May also be performed as a stand-alone piece.)



2018

Gordon Thornett

PRELUDE/PROCESSIONAL FOR ADVENT

“Prelude and Cherubic Hymn” was commissioned by the John F Kennedy School in Berlin, to mark the 25th anniversary of their Advent services held in Berlin Cathedral every year. It was performed by joint choirs, drawn from students, parents and staff, together with choir members from the American Church in Berlin on 29 November 2017. The accompaniment was provided by the John F Kennedy School Orchestra.

The piece is built around the ancient hymn, “Let all mortal flesh keep silence”. After an opening fanfare-like section (played by brass instruments if the orchestral accompaniment is used), the hymn starts gently, with sopranos singing in unison, a cappella (or with accompanying oboe), with successive verses using contrasting choral forces to reflect the words. The music builds to a big climax, with a return of the fanfare opening, for the final verse, “At his feet the six-winged seraph”, ending with joyful “Alleluias”.

*The orchestral score and parts are obtainable from Swirly Music. The catalog number is **GTT-028B**.*

The original performance included this organ prelude, which served as a processional, as the choirs took their places in the Cathedral. It is built around the fanfare motif from the main piece, along with a number of other hymn tunes associated with Advent.

If desired, the prelude may be played as a stand-alone piece in a service. I have left the organist to choose appropriate registrations!

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Available from Swirly Music

Catalog No. GTT-029



For the 25th Anniversary Advent Service by the John F Kennedy School
and the American Church in Berlin at Berlin Cathedral, November 2017

Advent Prelude and Processional for Organ

Gordon Thornett

Maestoso ♩ = 90

Organ

Pedals

5

A Allegretto alla marcia ♩ = 100
[Processional could start here!]

10

15

mp p

This system contains measures 15 through 18. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. It features a series of chords in the first two measures, marked *mp*, followed by a melodic line in the third and fourth measures, marked *p*. The middle and bottom staves provide harmonic support with chords and a steady bass line.

19

mp B mp

This system contains measures 19 through 23. Measure 19 is marked *mp*. Measure 23 features a section labeled 'B' in a box. The system concludes with a *mp* dynamic. The musical texture continues with chords and a consistent bass line.

24

p mp

This system contains measures 24 through 28. Measure 24 is marked *p*, and measure 26 is marked *mp*. The music consists of chords and a steady bass line.

29

p

This system contains measures 29 through 32. Measure 30 is marked *p*. The system concludes with a *p* dynamic. The musical texture continues with chords and a consistent bass line.

34 **C**

p

[prominent]

mf

p

40

mp

p

45 **D**

p

50

poco rit.

p

p

55 **Meno mosso** ♩ = 72

E ♩ = 96

Something fluty (baroquey!)

Musical score for measures 55-58. The right hand part is complex with many accidentals and a dense texture. The left hand part is simpler, with a few notes and a fermata over a note in the second measure.

59

Musical score for measures 59-63. The right hand part has a melodic line with some accidentals. The left hand part has a steady bass line.

64

F

Musical score for measures 64-68. The right hand part has a melodic line with a slur. The left hand part has a steady bass line. Dynamics include mf and p.

rit. **Maestoso** ♩ = 90

G

69

Musical score for measures 69-74. The right hand part has a melodic line with a slur. The left hand part has a steady bass line. Dynamics include f and a fermata over a note in the left hand.

74

H

ff

ff

ff

rit. ----- **Meno mosso** ♩ = 70

79

I

ff

ff

ff

ff

[*]Just a scale from Bb to F

83

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff