

Alle Psallite Cum Luya

Description:

A musical arrangement for 3 voices with a consolidated rehearsal part for piano.

Methods/Techniques:

I arranged this piece after reviewing several other arrangements. Every written version I have seen started all three parts at once. I wanted a version that started with the melody, and added one then two descant parts. I transposed it to C minor to fit the vocal ranges of the original singers.

Materials:

The song was originally published in the Montpellier Codex. “The Montpellier Codex is an important source of 13th century French polyphony. The codex contains 336 polyphonic works probably composed ca. 1250-1300, and was likely compiled ca. 1300. It is believed to originate from Paris.”¹ The attached image is the first page of this piece in the Montpellier Codex.² The neumes are similar enough to modern notation that the melodies can be seen.

This song is an example of a motet. The motet began in the early 13th century when words were added to upper-voice parts, above a plainchant melody in the tenor.³

The text is:

Alle [psallite cum] luya

Alle [concrepando psallite cum] luya

Alle [corde voto Deo toto, psallite cum] luya

Alleluya

(Concrepando psallite cum corde voto Deo toto. Alleluya.)

This translates to:

Halle [sing with] luya

Halle [resounding loudly sing with] luya

Halle [with heart devoted all to God sing with] luya

Halleluya

(Resounding loudly sing with heart devoted all to God. Halleluya)⁴

1 CPDL, http://www0.cpd.org/wiki/index.php/Montpellier_Codex, accessed August 28, 2014

2 Petrucci Music Library, [http://imslp.org/wiki/Montpellier_Codex_\(Various\)](http://imslp.org/wiki/Montpellier_Codex_(Various)), accessed August 28, 2014

3 Encyclopaedia Britannica, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/393896/motet>, accessed August 28, 2014

4 CPDL, http://www0.cpd.org/wiki/index.php/Alle_psallite_cum_luya_%28Anonymous%29, accessed August 28,