

Commissioned by the Toronto Chamber Choir (David Fallis, Music Director)
for the 2005 *Metamorphosis* Festival

Lyre

SATB choir with divisi, and optional piano

Words and Music by
Alex Eddington (2005, rev. 2018)



Lyre was commissioned by the Toronto Chamber Choir and premiered at the Metamorphosis Festival in Toronto in May 2005, conducted by David Fallis. The theme of the festival was Ovid's *Metamorphoses*; the TCC chose to put together a concert of music inspired by the myth of Orpheus.

Rather than using an existing text, ancient or otherwise, my approach to this piece was to create a world of closely related phonic sounds. I began by deriving a list of "rhymes" (some of which are rather stretched) to the word for Orpheus' instrument, the lyre. I found that some of these words fell quite naturally together, creating images and stories that are sometimes mythological, and sometimes mundane. I don't expect the audience to hear the words, however: they are subtext rather than text, a private storyline for the choir to sing about when really, what the audience hears is a stream of related syllables. For this reason, I request in the score that the text not be printed in the program.

As for composing the music, I let the text-stories speak to me as I played around a scale that is somewhat octatonic and sounds "ancient" to me. The piece is framed by a choral imitation of a strummed instrument: the Lyre of the title.

- Alex Eddington, November 2007

Composer's notes:

TEXT: 1) all of the text is to be pronounced as in English. 2) The text should NOT be printed in the program

CHORUS: 3-way male divisi can be divided TTB or TBB as needed.

The use of PIANO in performance is optional

If using piano, please consider omitting accompaniment for all or part of the section between mm. 35 and 82.

10

Pyre Fire Fire Pyre

mp *f*

12

Byre Byre Byre Fire

mf *f*

14

mf *ff* *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

Byre Pyre Gyre

mf *ff* *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

A - - - - - fire Gyre Choir Gyre

mf *ff* *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

A - - - - - fire Gyre Choir Gyre

ff *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

fire Gyre Choir Gyre

ff *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

Lea. (no pedal)

17

Choir Gyre Choir Gyre

Choir Gyre Choir Gyre

mf

Gyre Fire Choir Pyre

Choir Gyre Pyre Byre

Choir Gyre Pyre

19

f ³ *Choir* *Gyre*

f ³ *Choir* *Gyre*

f *Byre* *Byre* *A* *fire* *mf* *A*

f *A* *fire* *mf* *A*

f *mf*

21

f *Mire* *Mire* *Mire* *Mire*

f *Dire* *Dire* *Dire* *Dire*

f *Dire* *Dire* *Mire* *Dire*

f *fire* *Dire*

(light pedal as necessary)

23

Mire Mire

Dire

Mire Dire

Dire

24

ff *dim. poco a poco*

Gyre Gyre Gyre

ff *dim. poco a poco*

Gyre Gyre Choir Ire Gyre

ff *dim. poco a poco*

Gyre Choir Ire Gyre

ff *dim. poco a poco*

Gyre Gyre Gyre Gyre Gyre

ff *dim. poco a poco* *ff*

6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea.

26

Choir *p*
Fire

Choir *p*
Ire Gyre

Choir *p*
Ire Gyre Choir

(8^{va}) Gyre Gyre Choir Gyre

6 3 6 (dim.)
Leo. Leo. Leo. Leo. Leo.

28

poco rit.

p

pp

p *pp* F# = G^b
Choir Lyre (2nd basses only)

poco rit. (pp)

Leo. * *ppp*

♩ = 74

Flowingly, as in the beginning: the lyre is a choir

31

Musical score for measures 31-33. The score is for a Lyre instrument, with five staves. The first four staves are for the Lyre, and the fifth is for the piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 74. The score is in 2/4 time and features a key signature of one flat. The dynamics range from *pp* to *mp*. The Lyre part is marked with 'Lyre' and 'Lyre' above the notes. The piano accompaniment is marked with 'Lyre' below the notes. The score includes a large watermark reading 'Perusal Score - DO NOT COPY'.

34

Musical score for measures 34-36. The score is for a Lyre instrument, with five staves. The first four staves are for the Lyre, and the fifth is for the piano accompaniment. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 74. The score is in 2/4 time and features a key signature of one flat. The dynamics range from *pp* to *f*. The Lyre part is marked with 'Lyre' and 'Lyre' above the notes. The piano accompaniment is marked with 'Lyre' below the notes. The score includes a large watermark reading 'Perusal Score - DO NOT COPY'.

37

ff

$\text{♩} = 50$

Sensually, with long phrases: the choir is another lover

mp legato

Clear Glare Lay where light - er Lay our lay - er Lay her low - er

Clear Glare Lay her low - er

Clear Glare

Clear Glare

Clear Glare

ff

mp legato

sim. (roll L.H. only)

(light pedal as necessary)

41

Light - er lair Lay where low - er Lay her here where clear - er air

Light - er lair Lay where low - er Lay her here where clear - er air

mp legato

Lay where light - er lat - er, Lay her

mp legato

(Bass 2 only) Lay where light - er

45

mp
Near - er Far - ther
Near - er Far - ther Fur - ther
mp
Near - er Far - ther

f *mp* *pp*
there where light - er clear - er glare
f *mp* *pp*
there where light - er clear - er glare

f *mp*

49

Fa - ther Bro - ther
Fa - - - ther Bro - ther Near - er Far - ther Ga - ther an -
Fa - ther Bro - ther Near - er Far - ther Ga - ther an - *mf*

f sub. *mp*
f sub. *mp*

f *mp*

53

mf o - ther Mo - ther *f* An - o - ther *f* Lo - ver
mf o - ther Mo - ther *f* An - o - ther *sub. mf* La - ter lay - er
mf Lay her low - er Lay our lay - er Lay her low where Clear Glare
mf Lay her low - er la - ter lay - er where there *f*
 Lay her low - er Lay her there where Clear Glare

57

low - er ly - re light er li - ar lam - er buy - er blam - er cry - er
 Light - er lay - er lo - ver slay - er long - er pray - er li - ar splay - er
mf Lay her low here light - er lay where long - er lat - er

61

rit. poco a poco

p
 bar - ter mim - er tim - er loy - er lon - er long - er
 lo - ver fa - ther mo - ther bro - ther bor - er snor - er
p
 light here low - er blow - er snow - er bright - er go - er
p
 Clo - - - - ver co - - - - ver

63

(rit.)

= 86 Sweetly and smoothly:
 a prayer spire

pp *mp* *p* *ppp*
 wrong - er gon - er pawn - er Clear Glare
pp *mp* *p* *ppp*
 floor - er stor - er gor - er Clear Glare
pp *mp* *p* *ppp*
 near - er dear - er cheer - er Clear Glare
mp *p* *p*
 o - - - - ver Co - ver o - ver

66

Musical score for measures 66-68. The score includes vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The vocal lines are in treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in bass clef. The time signature is 4/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: cloi - - - - ster Prayer spire. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, and *mp*.

69

Musical score for measures 69-71. The score includes vocal lines and piano accompaniment. The vocal lines are in treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in bass clef. The time signature is 4/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: Green - er shire Near - - - - er. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, and *mp*.

72

f

er dear - er squire squire squire

f

er dear - er squire squire squire

f

dear - - - er squire near - er dear - er

f

dear - - - er squire Near - er dear - er squire

75

Poco rubato

Dears share

p

Peers share beers Dears share

p

Peers share beers Dears share

p

Peers share beers Dears share

80

♩ = 74

poco *pp* *poco rit.*

tears Clo - ser cheers co - ver ma - jor

tears Clo - ser cheers co - ver ma - jor

tears Clo - ser cheers co - ver ma - jor

tears Clo - ser cheers co - ver ma - jor

tears Clo - ser cheers co - ver ma - jor

poco *pp* *Slower, rit.*

84

♩ = 112

Driving and intense - more than before: the choir is a fiery pyre

(senza cresc.)

fears

(senza cresc.)

fears

fears

p *mp* *mp*

Lyre Lyre

A - fire A - fire

p *mp*

Reo. *Reo.* *Reo.*

f
 A - fire A pyre
mf
 A pyre A - fire A pyre
mf
 A - fire byre A - fire
f
 Byre A - fire
 Fire Byre Fire
mf
f
 Leo.

A - fire A byre
 A byre A - fire
mf
 A - fire Fire A
mf
 Pyre Spire
mf

92

mf *f* molto *f* molto

A - fire A A A A

Spire A - spire

f molto

Lea Lea Lea

94

acc. poco a poco -----

p *p* *p*

In - spire A - spire Per - - - spire

En - quire Re - quire Re - hire Re - tire

Spire Quire

Lea Lea

(accel.)

96

sub. *ff*

sub. *ff*

sub. *ff*

sub. *ff*

sub. *ff*

Pyre

Mire

Re - hire Re - tire In - spire Ex - pire

Ex - pire Ad - mire A - spire

Ex - pire Re - spire Per - spire In - spire Ex - pire

Pyre Mire

Reo. Reo. Reo. Reo.

98

$\text{♩} = 126$

Ah

Ah

Re - tire Re - quire Re - spire Re - quire Re - spire

Tire Tire

Re - tire Re - hire Re - quire Re - hire Re - quire

Tire Tire

*

♩ = 74

Flowing, hypnotic and losing steam: the lyre is a tired choir

100

Musical score for measures 100-103. The score is written for Lyre and Piano. The Lyre part consists of four staves (treble and bass clefs) and the Piano part consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 5/4, then 4/4, 3/4, and finally 6/4. The Lyre part is marked with dynamics *ff* and *f*. The Piano part is marked with dynamics *ff* and *f*. The Lyre part is labeled "Lyre" and the Piano part is labeled "Piano".

104

Musical score for measures 104-107. The score is written for Lyre and Piano. The Lyre part consists of four staves (treble and bass clefs) and the Piano part consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs). The time signature changes from 6/4 to 5/4, then 2/4, and finally 2/4. The Lyre part is marked with dynamics *mf*, *mp*, and *p*. The Piano part is marked with dynamics *mf*, *mp*, and *p*. The Lyre part is labeled "Lyre" and the Piano part is labeled "Piano".

107

Musical score for measures 107-110. The score is written for Lyre and piano. The Lyre part consists of four staves (treble and bass clefs) with a dynamic marking of *pp*. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a dynamic marking of *pp*. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 7/4. The music features a melodic line in the Lyre and a harmonic accompaniment in the piano. A large watermark "PulsarScore - DO NOT COPY" is overlaid on the score.

110

Musical score for measures 110-113. The score is written for Lyre and piano. The Lyre part consists of four staves (treble and bass clefs) with a dynamic marking of *pp*. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a dynamic marking of *pp*. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 7/4. The music features a melodic line in the Lyre and a harmonic accompaniment in the piano. A large watermark "PulsarScore - DO NOT COPY" is overlaid on the score.