

Heitor Villa-Lobos

(1887 - 1959)

Préces sem palabras

Prayers without words
Gebete ohne Worte

male choir / Männerchor
a cappella

Herausgegeben
von
Wilbur Skeels

HY 9906 M

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hayoh

The Composer and this work

Heitor Villa-Lobos (1887-1959) was a composer and conductor of decisive importance for the development of Brazilian music, absorbing and recording that country's folk music, designing and implementing school music education through choral singing for children, composing in all musical genres, and founding the Brazilian Academy of Music, in addition to an active life as an internationally-known conductor.

Préces sem palavras was published in 1952 in the choral collection *Musica Sacra*. This is its first appearance as a separately published work. A notation on the first edition indicates it was composed in São Paulo, and the Museu Villa-Lobos catalog has the date of composition as 1931. It is dedicated to Clovis Martins de Camargo, of whom nothing is known.

Villa-Lobos has added to the imagery of prayer with this piece. No gentle ascending incense smoke, but rather the whoosh of a fireworks rocket streaking towards the sky, marks the cadences of this wordless, but not inarticulate orison, which may owe more to indigenous native practice than to Christian liturgy.

Editor's Notes on *Préces sem palavras*

Villa-Lobos did not do much revising or correcting of his manuscripts, being content to set the main idea down. Performers must often make their own decisions about details. The dynamics indicated are those of the first edition; those added by the editor are shown in [brackets]. Portuguese tempo markings have been changed to Italian. The *Tempo I* markings represent the composer's *Adagio* notation. The *Mm* syllables in mm. 38-41 are marked *boca fechada* (closed mouth) in the earlier edition. Phrase markings which duplicate the syllable extensions have been removed for clarity. The syllables *Um!* (as in *dominum*) and *An!* or *Nan!* (pronounced *ahn* or *nahn*) are to be sustained on the vowel, with the final consonant used for articulation. The added ! indicates a more emphatic articulation. The signature *Vufffs!* starts with a heavily vocalized *v*, shoots upward on the *glissando* vowel to the *sforzando* unvoiced *fff* which is sustained and dies away into the final sizzle of the sibilant.

The duration of the piece is approximately 3'00".

A Clovis Martins de Camargo

Préces sem palavras

Prayers without words

For male choir, *a cappella*

(Gebete ohne Worte)

Männerchor a. c.

Heitor Villa-Lobos, 1952

S Adagio

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Baritone 1

Baritone 2

Bass

mf Um! _____

[*mp*] [—] Um! _____

Nan nan

mp Um! _____ *p* Nan! _____

p Um! _____

3

(Um!) Um! _____ Um! _____

(Um!) Um! _____

nan nan

Nan! Nan! Nan! Nan! Nan! Nan!

(Um!) Um! _____ Um! _____

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6

simile

(Um!) Um! *simile* Um!

nan nan

Nan nan nan nan nan *simile* nan nan

(Um!) Um!

9

(Um!) Um!

(Um!) (Um!)

nan nan nan nan nan nan nan!

nan nan nan! nan! nan nan nan nan

(Um!) *div.* nan nan nan! nan! nan nan nan nan

12

cresc. anim. poco a poco

> > > > > > >

nan nan nan nan nan nan nan! Ah! Ah!

(Um!) nan nan nan nan nan nan nan nan!

mf *cresc. anim. poco a poco*

nan nan

nan nan nan nan nan nan nan nan nan nan nan nan

nan nan nan nan nan nan nan nan nan nan nan

uni. nan nan

16

Tempo I

p

Ah! _____

Tempo I

Ah! _____

Tempo I

nan nan nan nan! Ah! _____

Tempo I

nan nan nan nan! Ah! _____

Tempo I

nan nan nan nan! Ah! _____

22

mf

Eh! _____

mf

Eh! _____

Eh! _____

Eh! _____

Ah! _____

Eh! _____

Eh! _____

Eh! _____

Ah! Oh! Ih!

mf

nan nan

mf

Um! _____

Um! _____

Um! _____

25

simile

(Eh!) _____

Eh! _____

Eh! _____

(Eh!) _____

Eh! _____

Eh! _____

simile

Eh! Nan nan

nan! _____

Eh! _____

Eh! _____

simile

(Um!) _____

Eh! _____

Eh! _____

simile

37

rall. e dim.

Tempo I

Ná ná ná! *p* *rall. e dim.* *pp* *Mm* *Tempo I* *pp*

ná ná ná! *f* *p* *rall. e dim.* *Tempo I* *pp*

nan nan nan nan nan nan nan nan! *f* *p* *rall. e dim.* *Tempo I* Lu lu lu lu lu lu lu

ná ná ná! *pp* Um! Um! Um! *Tempo I* *pp*

Ná! Na! Mm Mm

40

(mm) *rall.* An! An! Vufffs! *Fine*

(mm) *rall.* An! An! Vufffs! *Fine*

lu nan nan An! Vufffs! *Fine*

Um! Um! Um! Um! *rall.* An! An! Vufffs! *Fine*

(mm) Um! An! An! Vufffs! *Fine*

44

Andante

Andante

Andante

Andante

Andante rit.

Oh! Oh! Oh! Ah! *mf* *f* *p*

47 *p* *a tempo*

8 Ni! Ni ni ni ni!

8 Ni! Ni ni ni ni! *a tempo*

a tempo 3 3

Eh! *a tempo* Eh! Ah!

Ni! Ni ni ni ni!

Ni! Ni ni ni ni! *a tempo*

51 *rall.* *f* >>

Ná! Ná ná ná ná ná!

rall. *f* >>

Ná! Ná ná ná ná ná!

Ô! Oh! *rall.* *f* >>

Ná! Ná ná ná ná ná!

rall. *f* >>

Ná! Ná ná ná ná ná!

54 *sffz* *Un poco più mosso*

(ná!) Vufffs!

(ná!) Vufffs!

Vufffs!

(ná!) Vufffs! Vufffs! *p* >>

(ná!) La! La! Re! An! *p* >>