

Tanker om en koral

Reflections on a chorale

By Klaus Bjerre (1998)

Here set for 4 horns in F or for a 4 part horn choir

This arranger has edited quite a lot of music to be used by ad hoc and student ensembles in churches as well as in more secular contexts.

In 1998 a projected church concert had me make the outline for a very thorough presentation of the most fundamental chorale in the Danish church. A chorale of a similar importance in many Christian churches in other countries as well.

The projected presentation never was completed. I soon realised, that what I wanted to write would be too difficult for the band in question. And one more problem came up.

Part of the presentation should have been an opening riddle section where the chorale should be presented by means of techniques used especially in serial music. Inversion, retrograde inversion, retrograde, and then a setting of the chorale in its plain form should solve the riddle at last.

However the retrograde version never got right, so the 3 other versions have rested on my hard disk since then. I often have listened to them and found, that they should be tried in other medias than MIDI.

So here they come arranged for a medium, which recently has caught my interest: the horn quartet. A key suited for plain-song has been chosen. Yet the 1st horn is taken no higher than G on top of the staff, whereas the 4th horn is taken down to the lowest F#.

The Danish title of the original project has been kept. These settings can be used as pre-, inter-, and postludes in a plain-song context. But even the plain form version hardly could be used to accompany the congregation.

No dynamics have been given aside from accents, that shall help in outlining the partially rather complex polyrhythms. In some sections the pulse is simultaneously broken up in various ways in the 3 lower parts, so a general notation in 4/4 has been kept all the way. The reading of these rhythmic subdivisions has been assisted by means of brackets over the sections in question. The overall dynamic level should be kept at softer levels.

Settings for woodwind quintet, brass quartet, recorder ensemble, and flute choir are in the planning. When completed they would allow for various church ensembles to compile parts for all of their members.

This arrangement can be used free of charge, but a postcard or an e-mail reporting on readings and performances would be nice.

Klaus Bjerre

Postboks 38
DK-4220 Korsør
Danmark

K-Bone@mail.dk

4 horns in F

Tanker om en koral

Klaus Bjerre (1998)

Reflections on a chorale

Inversion
Inverted

$\text{♩} = 84$

S
A
T
B

S
A
T
B

S
A
T
B

4 horns in F

Tanker om en koral

Reflections on a chorale

Koral Chorale

S
A
T
B

S
A
T
B

S
A
T
B