Program Notes

My Alleluia was written for the debut of my chorus, Howl!, an ensemble based in the Morningside Heights area of Manhattan that I led for several years. The premiere was December 9, 2003, at Christ Chapel, Riverside Church. The piece was a finalist in the Shoreline Community Chorale’s (CT) 2010 Composition Competition.

Prior to publication I decided to make a few changes to the work: The climactic middle section is now greatly expanded, while the ostinato-dominant bookends are slightly clipped. It is probably the most spare and reserved piece I’ve written, texturally dominated by a mantra-like chanting of the title word. In this context, the simple motifs and, eventually, chords stand out in strong relief. The drama and syncopations of the central section provide a clear contrast before the piece returns to the original mood. Things end as simply as can be, in a single solo alto voice.

-Jonathan David

Performance Notes

*In the “ostinato” sections the final ‘ia’ of ‘Alleluia’ doubles as the first ‘al’ of the next one, i.e., there is no new glottal attack. (The notes are effectively tied.) Use glottal only when ‘Alleluia’ is preceded by a rest and when the ‘Al-’ note is marked tenuto.

If the piece is sung a cappella the chorus should begin at measure 3.

Piano is not an effective substitute for the optional organ and its use is discouraged. However, a cello on the bottom line of the organ part is acceptable. The cellist would need to take the Bb in measures 83-89 up an octave.
Alleluia
for SSAA chorus with optional organ

Simply, Without Affectation
Always Legato \( \dot{=} 62 \)

SOPRANO 1

SOPRANO 2

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

ORGAN (optional)

Ped. (16', 8')

Simply, Without Affectation \( \dot{=} 62 \)

Alleluia

S. 1

mp stagger breaths

S. 2

Al-le-lu-ia Al-le-lu-ia Al-le-lu-ia Al-le-lu-ia Al-le-lu-ia Al-le-lu-ia

A. 1

Al-le-lu-ia Al-le-lu-ia Al-le-lu-ia Al-le-lu-ia Al-le-lu-ia Al-le-lu-ia

A. 2

mp

Al-le-lu-ia

Org.

25

Man.

Al-le-lu-ia

31

Al-le-lu-ia

Al-le-lu-ia

Al-le-lu-ia
Duration: ca. 3'30"
New York City, 2003;
rev. Chapel Hill, NC, 2014