SSAA (also SATB and TTBB) a/c, w/ optional organ
Difficulty rating: 1+
Duration: 3'30”
Premiere (SATB): Howl!, conducted by the composer, Riverside Church, NYC, 12/09/03
Premiere (TTBB): Carroll University Men’s Chorus, Music Director, Thomas Weis, Waukesha, WI, April 17, 2015

My Alleluia was written for the debut of my chorus, Howl!, an ensemble based in the Morningside Heights area of Manhattan and which I led for several years. [The concert was also my choral conducting debut!] The evening didn’t exactly need more Jonathan David material: I programmed my Christmas Cantata and had composed Stupendous Stranger for the occasion. But I realized a few weeks before the concert that I didn’t have a strong opener. So, rather than mine the existing repertoire, I wrote something myself. The bulk of the piece was done in an afternoon. The premiere was December 9, 2003, at Christ Chapel, Riverside Church. The piece subsequently was a finalist in the Shoreline Community Chorale’s (CT) 2010 Composition Competition.

Upon reviewing the score prior to publication I decided to make a few changes: The climactic middle section is 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 strong contrast before the piece returns to the original mood. Things end as simply as can be, in a single solo voice. [The women’s arrangement was completed in 2015].