

PAUL WINCHESTER

A MOTHER'S
MAGNIFICAT

Mezzo-Soprano and Piano

Text

I am blessed.
And I would bring that blessing to the world.

I am only a woman, but I am a woman.
What spirit moves through me and moved through my foremothers
I will move through my daughters
And they will be holy.

I will share my blessing of the spirit in tenderness, in gentleness, in righteousness, in charity, in thoughtfulness, in love.

What I bear in me has been born to me by mother
And her mother before her
And her mother before her
And before and before;
Born through blood and spirit since Sarah and her seed.

So shall it be with my daughters and theirs after and theirs after
And we shall be blessed forever.

Notes

In 2013, I had the opportunity to compose *Advent: A Cantata* for my home church of Peace UCC in Duluth, MN. In so doing, I was able to explore several of the traditional advent texts as well as modern poetic takes on the season. Upon reaching the Magnificat text – one of the bedrocks of advent – I felt unsure. While I love and have set the traditional Magnificat and appreciate both its poetry and theology, in this instance I found myself struck by how, to my ears, the text sounded as though it came from the biblical authors rather than the mouth of Mary, a young girl soon to be a first-time mother. And so I set about the task of reimagining that text, maintaining the core theological elements but using more modernized language and imagining myself in Mary's shoes. I then set the text in a way meant to convey both tenderness and utter self-assurance. The result is *A Mother's Magnificat*.

from Advent: A Cantata

A MOTHER'S MAGNIFICAT

Paul Winchester

Tender, Ecstatic ♩ = 100

Mezzo-Soprano

Musical score for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano, measures 1-4. The Mezzo-Soprano part is a whole rest. The Piano part features a treble and bass clef with a 5/4 time signature. It includes a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a half note in the bass, both marked *mp*. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

5

p < > *mp* >

mp

I am blessed. _____ And I would bring that bless-ing ___ to the

Musical score for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano, measures 5-8. The Mezzo-Soprano part has lyrics: "I am blessed. _____ And I would bring that bless-ing ___ to the". The Piano part continues with a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a half note in the bass, both marked *mp*. The time signature changes to 4/4.

9

mf

world. _____ I am on-ly a wo - man, _ but I _____ am _ a

Musical score for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano, measures 9-12. The Mezzo-Soprano part has lyrics: "world. _____ I am on-ly a wo - man, _ but I _____ am _ a". The Piano part continues with a triplet of eighth notes in the treble and a half note in the bass, both marked *mf*. The time signature changes to 3/4 and then 2/4.

THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
INDEPENDENT ARTISTS

28 *p* *mp*

gen-tle-ness, in right-eous - ness, in cha-ri-ty, in thought-ful - ness,

8va -----

32 *mp* *p*

in love.

mp *p*

37 *f* *mp*

f *mp*

41 *mp*

What I bear in me — has been born to me — by my mo - ther —

mp

THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
INDEPENDENT ARTISTS

About the Composer

Paul Winchester is an award-winning composer, performer, educator, and music director in Minneapolis, MN.



Praised for “beautiful harmonic and melodic language,” Paul's work has been commissioned and performed by the The Singers: Minnesota Choral Artists, The Society for New Music, the Ohio Shakespeare Festival, the Wooster Symphony, and numerous church and school choirs. Paul received his B. Mus in Composition from The College of Wooster and his M. Mus in Composition at Syracuse University, where he was a Heaton Fellow and a recipient of the Brian Israel Award.

As a performer, Paul performs regularly throughout the Twin Cities in both studio and live settings as a singer and multi-instrumentalist. Paul has served as the Music Director for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka since 2014.

In addition to his music career, Paul is also a professional game developer, notably serving as lead designer and producer for most of the product line of Star Wars: Imperial Assault, winner of the 2015 Board Game of the Year Origin Award.

More Music

5 Pillars – Tenor, Percussion, and Piano – 27'30”

5 Songs of Love – Voice and Piano – 12'30”

Dream – Tenor, Baritone, and Piano – 7’

I Am Not There – Voice and Piano – 4'30”

Mass for Voice and Piano – 22’

The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls – Mezzo-Soprano and Mixed Chamber Ensemble – 9'40”

To Love Again – Voice and Piano – 22’

Two Shakespearean Monologues – Baritone, Clarinet, Oboe, and Piano – 10'30”

A Holy Night – SATB Unaccompanied – 6'30”

Advent: A Cantata – SATB with Baritone and Mezzo-Soprano soloists, Alto Saxophone, Cello, Flute, Horn in F, Organ, Piano, Violin, and optional Lever Harp – 40’

Stabat Mater – SATB with soloists, Piano, Timpani, and 2 Percussionists – 9’

Dialogue for Clarinet and Piano – 6'30”

Syncphony – Clarinet, Cello, Piano, Electric Guitar, and 2 Percussionists – 20’

These pieces and more available for purchase at paulwinchester.com.