

PERFORMANCE NOTES

“Sicut Cervus” is one of the most widely performed pieces by Renaissance composer, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina. (We generally consider the Renaissance period in music to be between the years 1450-1600.) The piece is a motet, which is an a cappella choral work with a religious or liturgical text. Written in Latin, the text is based on Psalm 42:1. An English translation has not been written in the music, as I feel that these classic pieces should only be performed in their original language.

Palestrina was born in the town of Palestrina (hence, Giovanni Pierluigi, of or from Palestrina) in 1525, lived most of his life in Rome, and died there in 1594. Palestrina wrote hundreds of choral pieces, was an organist, and for a time was the choirmaster at St. Peter’s Basilica.

Although there are many editions in the key of A-flat major, Palestrina’s original work for four voices was written in the key of F-major. Every attempt has been made to keep the original beauty of Palestrina’s classic work while making it more accessible with the three parts rather than four.

Sing its beautiful melodic lines freely and with pure vowels

Russell Robinson, Arranger

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Sic-ut cer-vus de-si-de-rat ad fon-tes a-qua-rum,
 (As the hart [deer] panteth after the water brooks.)
See-koot chehr-voos deh-zee-deh-raht ahd fohn-tehs ah-kwah-room,

i-ta de-si-de-rat a-ni-ma me-a ad te, De-us.
 (so panteth my soul after thee, O God.)
ee-tah deh-zee-deh-raht ah-nee-mah meh-ah ahd teh, Deh-oos.

SICUT CERVUS

for S.A.B. voices, a cappella*

Arranged by
RUSSELL ROBINSON

Music by GIOVANNI PIERLUIGI
DA PALESTRINA (1525-1594)
Words based on Psalm 42:1

Not too fast (♩ = ca. 96)

mp

SOPRANO

ALTO

BARITONE

PIANO
(for rehearsal only)

mp

5

8

mf

Sic - ut cer - vus de - si - de - rat ad fon -

- ut cer - vus de - si - de - rat ad fon - tes a -

vus de - si - de - rat ad fon - tes a - qua

tes a - qua - rum, - sic -

* Also available for S.S.A. voices, No. 35525.

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qua - rum, a - qua - rum,

mf

- rum, sic - ut cer - vus de - si - de-

- ut cer - vus de - si - de-rat ad fon - tes a

mf

sic - ut cer - vus de - si - de-rat ad

rat ad fon - tes a - qua - rum, de - si - de-rat ad

qua - rum, _____

19

fon - tes a - qua - rum,

fon - tes a - qua - rum, i -

de - si - de - rat ad fon - tes a - qua - rum

24

i - ta de - si -

- ta de - si de -

i - ta de - si - de - rat,

de - rat,

rat, _____

i - ta de - si -

i - ta de - si - de - rat, i - ta de - si -

mp

mp

mp

mp

i - ta de - si - de - rat _____

de - rat, i - ta de - si - de -

de - rat, i - ta de - si - de - rat, i - ta

mp

39

41

a - ni - ma me - a
 rat a - ni - ma me - a
 de - si - de - rat a ni -

44

ad te, De - us,
 ad te, De - us, *p* a - ni - ma me - a
 ma me - a ad te, De -

49

p

a - ni - ma me - a ad te, De -

ad te, De - us, ad te, De -

p

- us, a - ni - ma me - a ad te, De

54

- us.

- us, ad te De - us.

- us, ad te De - us.

