

Editor's Note

This canon was originally written for four a cappella voices by Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621), a Dutch composer. It was included as a part of his multi-movement work *Cantiones Sacrae*, which was published in 1619. The Ecclesiastes text translates to: Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.

I have chosen to arrange this piece for S.A.B. voices and added an optional piano part that can support the voices. One of the unique features of this canon is that voices enter every three measures, instead of every two or four measures. The main theme is twelve measures in length and is sung in unison by all voices at the beginning, then all voices get a chance to sing it independently, culminating in the ending.

If singing this a cappella, start at measure six as indicated. For variety, it could be sung with and without piano at various times. For example, sing with piano through measure 47, then sing without piano from measures 48-57, then resume the accompaniment from measure 58 to the end. Feel free to experiment with and without piano in various sections of the piece. The independent piano part assists the voices in subtle ways without just playing the voice parts.

I hope you enjoy singing this beautiful canon by one of the great Dutch composers of the late Renaissance period, Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck.

Russell Robinson, Arranger

Pronunciation Guide

Va-ni-tas, va-ni-ta-tum, et om-ni-a va-ni-tas.
va-ni-tas, va-ni-ta-tum, et om-ni-a va-ni-tas.

Please see *Alfred's IPA Made Easy* (42789) for further explanation of the International Phonetic Alphabet.

VANITAS CANON

for S.A.B. voices and optional piano
with optional PianoTrax*

Words from
Ecclesiastes 1:2

Music by **J. P. SWEELINCK** (1562-1621)
Arranged by **RUSSELL ROBINSON**

Moderato (♩ = ca. 76)

PIANO
(optional)

4 SOPRANO

6

ALTO

BARITONE

mp

Va - ni - tas, va - ni -

mp

Va - ni - tas, va - ni -

mp

Va - ni - tas, va - ni -

* Also available for S.S.A. (48359). PianoTrax 12 accompaniment CD available (48280).
Visit alfred.com for digital scores and audio.

NOTE: If singing a cappella, begin in measure 6.

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4

8

ta - tum, et om - ni - a va - ni -

ta - tum, et om - ni - a va - ni -

ta - tum, et om - ni - a va - ni -

The musical score for measures 4-8 consists of three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, and Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in a homophonic setting, with the lyrics 'ta - tum, et om - ni - a va - ni -' repeated across the three parts. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.

12

tas, va - ni - tas, va - ni - ta - tum, et

tas, va - ni - tas, va - ni - ta - tum, et

tas, va - ni - tas, va - ni - ta - tum, et

The musical score for measures 12-16 continues with the vocal parts and piano accompaniment. The lyrics 'tas, va - ni - tas, va - ni - ta - tum, et' are repeated across the three vocal parts. The piano accompaniment continues to provide harmonic support.

15

om - ni - a va - ni - tas.

om - ni - a va - ni - tas.

om - ni - a va - ni - tas.

18

mf

Va - ni - tas, va - ni - ta - tum, et

mf

Va - ni -

mf

om - ni - a va - ni - tas, va - ni - tas, va - ni -

tas, va - ni - ta - tum, et om - ni - a va -

mf

Va - ni - tas, va - ni -

ta - tum, et om - ni - a va - ni - tas.

ni - tas, va - ni - tas, va - ni - ta - tum, et

ta - tum, et om - ni - a va - ni -

30

Va - ni - tas, va - ni - ta - tum, et
 om - ni - a va - ni - tas. Va - ni -
 tas, va - ni - tas, va - ni - ta - tum et om - ni - a

34

om - ni - a va - ni - tas, va - ni - tas, va - ni -
 tas, va - ni - ta - tum, et om - ni - a va -
 va - ni - tas. Va - ni - tas, va - ni -

ta - tum, et om - ni - a va - ni - tas.
 - ni - tas, va - ni - tas, va - ni - ta - tum, et
 ta - tum, et om - ni - a va - ni -

om - ni - a va - ni - tas.
 tas, va - ni - tas, va - ni - ta - tum, et om - ni - a

46

48

va - ni - tas. Va - ni - tas, va - ni -

mp

mp

50

Va - ni - tas, va - ni - ta -

ta - tum, et om - ni - a va - ni -

mp

54

mp

Va - ni - tas, va - ni - ta - tum, et
 tum, et om - ni - a va - ni - tas, va - ni -
 tas, va - ni - tas, va - ni - ta - tum, et om - ni - a

58

60

om - ni - a va ni - tas, va - ni - tas, va - ni -
 tas, va - ni - ta - tum, et om - ni - a va - ni -
 va - ni - tas. *mf* Va - ni - tas, va - ni -

62

ta - tum, et om - ni - a va - ni - tas.

mf

tas. Va - ni - tas, va - ni - ta

ta - tum, et om - ni - a va - ni -

66

mf

Va - ni - tas, va - ni - ta - tum, et

tum, et om - ni - a va - ni - tas, va - ni -

tas, va - ni - tas, va - ni - ta - tum, et om - ni - a

om - ni - a va - ni - tas, va - ni - tas, va - ni -

tas, va - ni - ta - tum, et om - ni - a va - ni -

va - ni - tas. Va - ni - tas, va - ni -

ta - tum, et om - ni - a va - ni - tas. *rit.* *f*

tas. *rit.* *f* Va - ni - tas, va - ni - *rit.* *f*

ta tum, et om - ni - a va - ni - *rit.* *f*