

MISERERE MEI

For off-stage SSA soloists and two on-stage choirs (SATB, STB)

Duration: c. 6 minutes

*Commissioned by The Tallis Scholars. First performed by The Tallis Scholars,
conducted by Peter Phillips, at the Proms at St Jude's,
St Jude on the Hill, London, 1st July 2016*

TEXT

Miserere mei, Deus,
secundum magnam misericordiam tuam:

Have mercy upon me, O God,
according to thy loving kindness:

Et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum,
dele iniquitatem meam.

According unto the multitude of thy tender mercies,
blot out my transgressions.

Amplius lava me ab iniquitate mea,
Et a peccato meo munda me.

Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

Quoniam iniquitatem meam ego cognosco,
Et peccatum meum contra me est semper

For I acknowledge my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

Tibi soli peccavi,
Et malum coram te feci;
Ut justificeris in sermonibus tuis,
Et vincas cum judicaris.

Against thee, thee only, have I sinned,
and done this evil in thy sight;
that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest,
and be clear when thou judgest.

Libera me de sanguinibus, Deus,
Deus salutis meae,
Et exultabit lingua mea justitiam tuam.

Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God,
thou God of my salvation;
and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

PROGRAMME NOTE

I will always remember hearing Allegri's *Miserere* for the first time. I was struck by the beauty of the music and the emotions that it conveyed. This was a recording of the *Allegri* by the Tallis Scholars, a recording which has remained close to my heart ever since. I was therefore thrilled to be commissioned by this choir to write a new setting of the same text.

The new piece reflects my emotional response to Allegri's strikingly moving *Miserere*. Like the *Allegri*, it is scored for double choir. Two musical elements are contrasted: that of the main choir and a more lyrical section sung by the off-stage solo group. As these sections alternate, the piece gradually builds in intensity with suspension after suspension. The harmony is intensified as the first soprano soars to a high C, hitting the climax on the words 'Libera me de sanguinibus' ('Deliver me from blood guiltless').

6

p cresc.
Mi - se-re - re me - i, mi - se-re - re me -

p cresc.
Mi - se - re - re me - i, De -

p cresc.
- i, De - - us, De - - us, mi - se-re -

p cresc.
se - cun - - dum mag - nam mi - se - ri -