

Eternal Christmas

1. Eternal Christmas, eternal Christmass!

Baby Jesus Christ!

Baby Jesus Christ is born!

2. Joyful like angels, we sing and praise the Jesus-

let's sing and praise the Jesus-

Like joyful angels, like angels, Jesus is born!

3. Eternal Christmas, eternal Christmass!

Baby Jesus Christ!

Baby Jesus Christ is born!

Lorenz Maierhofer

Preface

Lorenz Maierhofer makes use of a special combination of traditional musical language to convey the eternal message of Christmas, rooted deep in the past and celestially fading away in the endless reaches of the future.

The choir responds to the hymn-like introduction of the choralale with a multi-faceted chorale sound cluster: „*Jesus Christ is born!*“ All of the choir voices sing this phrase in a free individual tempo, making a completely personal statement. This gives rise to a freely soaring choral sound cluster, while singers use vocal effects resembling peals of heavenly bells. Individually flowing, the cluster swells again and again in the collective, harmonious fermata chord. The various elements in the lyrics of this section („*Jesus Christ is ...*“) give rise to striking whispers, messages, hints in their content, in the surging of the cluster.

In its content as in the music, this contemporary choral piece is characterised by subtle, vocal musical messages in the form of a interplay between past and future of the vocalistic languages. A timeless hymn to “eternal Christmas”.

Vorwort

Mit einer besonderen kompositorischen Tonsprache erweckt Lorenz Maierhofer die ewige Botschaft der Weihnacht aus, tief verwurzelt im Gestern und sphärisch verklingend in der Unendlichkeit der Zukunft.

Auf den hymnisch einleitenden Choral antwortet der Chor mit einem vielschichtigen Chorklang-Cluster: „*Jesus Christ is born!*“ Alle Chorstimmen singen diese Phrase in individuell freiem Tempo als ganz persönliche Aussage. Der dabei entstehende frei schwebende Chorklang-Cluster löst Oberton-Effekte wie himmlisches Glockengeläute aus. Individuell fließend mündet der Cluster immer wieder in den gemeinsamen harmonischen Fermate-Akkord. Verschiedene Zischlaute im Text dieser Abschnitte („*Jesus Christ is ...*“) lassen im wallenden Cluster auch inhaltlich gezielt eindrucksvolle Flüsterbotschaften entstehen.

Inhaltlich wie auch musikalisch ist das zeitgenössische Chorstück von subtilen vokalen Klangbotschaften und dem kontrastierenden Wechselspiel der vokalen Tonsprachen zwischen Gestern und Morgen charakterisiert. Ein zeitoffener Hymnus an die „ewige Weihnacht“.

Eternal Christmas

3

SATB a cappella

Lyrics: Lorenz Maierhofer

Music: Lorenz Maierhofer

A With a hymnic feeling

S

A

T

Tutti T/B or Baritone Solo

B

Piano/Klavier
(for rehearsal)

1. E - ter - nal Christ - mas, e - ter - nal Christ - mas! Ba by Je - sus

1. E - ter - nal Christ - mas, al Christ - mas! ba - by Je - sus

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individual tempo

1. Je - sus Christ is born!

individual tempo

1. Je - sus Christ is born!

individual tempo

Christ! Ba - by Je sus Christ is born! Je - sus Christ is born!

individual tempo

Christ! Ba - by Je - sus Je - sus Christ is born! Je - sus Christ is born!

individual tempo



B

13

E - ter - nal Christ - mas, e - ter - nal Christ - mas! Ba - by

E - ter - nal Christ - mas, e - ter - nal Christ - mas! Ba - by

E - ter - nal Christ - mas, e - ter - nal Christ - mas! Ba - by

E - ter - nal Christ - mas, e - ter - nal Christ - mas! Ba - by

18

Je - - - sus Christ is born!, Je - sus, Je - - - sus Christ is born!

Je - sus, Je - - - sus Christ is born!, Je - sus, Je - - - sus Christ is born!

Je - sus, Je - - - sus Christ is born!, Je - sus, Je - - - sus Christ is born!

Je - sus, Je - - - sus Christ is born!, Je - sus, Je - - - sus Christ is born!



C

23 Solo or Tutti

2. Joy - ful like an - gels let us sing, like an - gels us sing, let's

Solo or Tutti

2. Joy - ful like an - gels let us sing, let's sing like an - gels, us sing let's

-

-

-

27 sing and praise -

- King! Like joy - ful an - gels, like

sing and praise -

glori -

rious King! Like joy - ful an - gels, like

3. Like joy - ful an - gels, like

3. Like joy - ful an - gels, like

-

-



31

D

individual tempo

an - gels let us sing! Let's sing: 3. E - ter - nal Christ - mas, e - ter - nal

individual tempo

an - gels let us sing! Let's sing: 3. E - ter - nal mas, e - ter - nal

individual tempo

an - gels let us sing! Let's sing: 3. E - ter - nal Christ - mas, e - ter - nal

individual tempo

individual tempo

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individual tempo

Christ - mas! Ba - by Je - sus Christ! Ba - by Je - sus, Je -

individual tempo

Christ - mas! Ba - by Je - sus Christ! Ba - by Je - sus, Je -

individual tempo

Christ - mas! Ba - by Je - sus Christ! Ba - by Je - sus, Je -

individual tempo

individual tempo



41

individual tempo

- - sus Christ is born! Ba - by Je - sus, Je - sus Christ is born!

individual tempo

- - sus Christ is born! Ba - by Je - sus, Je - sus Christ is born!

individual tempo

- - sus Christ is born! Ba - by Je - sus, Je - sus Christ is born!

individual tempo

- - sus Christ is born! Ba - by Je - sus, Je - sus Christ is born!

individual tempo

- - sus Christ is born! Ba - by Je - sus, Je - sus Christ is born!

Performance notes

“individual tempo”: In these two sections, each vocal part sings in a free, individual tempo. Every note of the choral setting should sound for between two and five seconds. The free individual sounds ring again and again into the fermatas. Individual sounds in the singing are drawn out into a collective sound. Dissonances which arise in the chord cluster are to be produced by the individual parts with powerful, personal expression and with all with great self-assurance.

Preliminary exercise: Perform a piece of the section “individual tempo”.

Aufführungshinweise

„individual tempo“: In diesen kurzen Abschnitten singt jede Singstimme in einem individuell freien Tempo – jeder Ton des Chorsatzes soll zwischen zwei und fünf Sekunden lang erklingen. Der freie Klangfluss mündet immer wieder in die Fermaten-Akkorde, welche bis zu einem gemeinsamen reinen Akkordklang ausgedehnt gesungen werden.

Die entstehenden Dissonanzen im Chorklang-Cluster sollen von jeder Singstimme mit starkem persönlichen Ausdruck und vor allem sehr selbstbewusst gestaltet werden.

Vorübung für die Interpretation des Abschnittes „individual tempo“:

individual tempo

(s) Je - - - sus Christ is born!

sing each note 2–5 seconds individually
jede Note individuell 2–5 Sekunden lang singen

