

Chamber Singers: Choral Audition

O magnum mysterium – Tomás Luis de Victoria

This is a wonderful piece that I know you will enjoy singing. A recording is available on the choral website (lalachoral.com). Click the drop-down menu, then click on the "Auditions" tab.

Preparation: I would highly recommend listening to the recording of the piece. Maybe listen once or twice all the way through, as well as listening to the selected portion a few more times to get a feel for how the harmonies flow. The choral audition will cover measures 40-End only.

Once you have listened to the section numerous times, paying attention to the singers' beautiful Latin, it is time to work on how to pronounce the text. Here is a rough guide, with the Latin on top and a rough English equivalent on bottom:

O be - a - ta vir - go cu - jus vis - ce - ra

Oh bay ah tah veer goh coo yoos vee sheh rah

me - ru - e - runt por - ta - re Do - mi - num Je - sum

may roo ay roont pore tah ray doe me noom yay soom

Chri - stum a - le - lu - ia.

Kree stoom ah lay loo yah

Once you can speak the words comfortably, without pausing or stumbling, practice speaking them in rhythm. Take it slow to start, gradually speeding up when you become more comfortable.

Last is adding correct notes. Again, start slow. If you have the piano chops to play it, do so. If not, find a friend who can. Be very careful in your note learning as learning wrong notes makes it difficult to fix. The icing on the cake is to practice singing with the recording. Can you sing your part while hearing all the other parts? Let's hope so, since that is what you will need to do in the choral audition;)

Let me know if you have any concerns/questions. Good luck and God bless.

Mr. Leukert