

BE LIKE THE BIRD [2019]

For SSAA choir, whistlers and body percussion
Commissioned by and dedicated to Amaranthe
and their conductor Johannes Dewilde [BE]

Poetry - Victor Hugo [1802-1885]
Music - Hans Helsen [*1989]

1/ Some choir members start whistling (unsynchronised) new or existing melodies. Use this set of notes.
If possible, try to relate the melodies to something else in your concert's program.
2/ The other choir members join with humming, using the same set of notes.
3/ Everyone (whistling soloist excepted) fades to singing gradually. The start of bar 1 is attacca.
Suggested duration: ca. 1'

4

cresc. poco a poco

be like the bird that,___ be like the bird that,___ be like the bird that,___

cresc. poco a poco

be like the bird that,___ be like the bird that,___ be like the bird that,___

cresc. poco a poco

— pau - sing___ pau - sing___ pau - sing_

cresc. poco a poco

be like the bird that,___ be like the bird that,___ be like the bird that,___



7

mf *subito p*

be like the bird that,___ be like the bird that,___ be like the bird that,___

mf *subito p*

be like the bird that,___ be like the bird that,___ be like the bird that,___

mf *subito p*

— pau - sing___ pau - sing___ pau - sing_

mf *subito p*

be like the bird that,___ be like the bird that,___ be like the bird that,___

I.v.

24

f subito senza decresc.

feels them give... feels them give... and

f subito senza decresc.

feels them give... feels them give... and

f subito senza decresc.

feels them give... feels them give... and

f

...way be - neath her, way be - neath her, and

clap*



28

D Similar tempo, molto rubato (like the singing of birds)

stap*

let dynamics follow melodic progression

sings, sings,

let dynamics follow melodic progression

sings, sings,

let dynamics follow melodic progression

sings, sings,

let dynamics follow melodic progression

sings, and sings,

clap*

stap*

*When using a scenic approach to this piece, staps and claps may be replaced by other strong movement that generate sound.

48

kno-wing she hath wings. sings... wings... sings... wings... sings... wings...

solo

solo

solo

solo



Keep the airy/windy sound longer than the whistling/singing, then gradually fade away.

51

The solo singers start whistling (instead of singing) their notes while the other singers keep the chord. After some time, the singing gradually stops. The whistling continues for about 10 more seconds. The suggested timing may be adapted in favor of performing circumstances.