

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'**

The musical score consists of four staves, each representing a different voice: S1 (Soprano 1), S2 (Soprano 2), A1 (Alto 1), and A2 (Alto 2). Each staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of four flats, and a common time signature. The music consists of a single melodic line represented by small dots on the staff, starting with a quarter note followed by eighth notes. The duration of the notes increases slightly over time. The score ends with a common time signature and a treble clef.

The musical score features a single staff for a whistling solo, labeled 'A'. The tempo is indicated as $\text{♩} = 54$. The instruction 'Whistling solo (may also be sung)' is provided. The music is in 3/4 time. The first measure shows a melodic line with dynamic markings mp and p , followed by lyrics: 'Be like the bird that,' repeated three times. The second measure continues the melody and lyrics. The third measure starts with a dynamic p and includes the lyrics 'pau - sing' three times. The fourth measure concludes with the lyrics 'be like the bird that,'.

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

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

subito p

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

mf

 pau - sing pau - sing pau - sing

subito p

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

mf

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

subito p

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

24

f subito senza decresc.

feels them give... and

f subito senza decresc.

feels them give... and

f subito senza decresc.

feels them give... and

f

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

28

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

*clap**

*stap**

let dynamics follow melodic progression

sings, sings,

and sings,

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

48

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



51

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

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.