

Commissioned by the Young People's Chorus of New York City for Transient Glory  
Francisco J. Núñez, Artistic Director

# ORPHEUS

for Three-Part Treble Voices, a cappella

Poetry by  
Sir Osbert Sitwell

Music by  
Dominick Argento

*Grazioso* (♩ = 73) *mp quasi eco*

Treble I  
When Or - phe - us \_\_\_\_\_ with his

Treble II  
*mf*  
When Or - phe - us \_\_\_\_\_ with his wind - swept

Treble III

Piano  
*Grazioso* (♩ = 73)  
*(for rehearsal only)*  
*mp*

wind-swift fin - gers \_\_\_\_\_ Rip - ples the strings \_\_\_\_\_ that gleam like rain, \_\_\_\_\_

fin - gers \_\_\_\_\_ Rip - ples the strings \_\_\_\_\_ that gleam like rain, \_\_\_\_\_

8 *mf cresc.* The wheel - ing birds fly up and sing, sing, — *f*

*cresc.* The wheel - ing birds fly up and sing, — sing, — *f*

*cresc.*

12 *mp* Hith - er, thith - er, hith - er, e - cho-ing;

*mf* Hith - er, thith - er, hith - er, thith - er e - cho-ing, *tranco* e - cho...

*tranco*

**Più mosso ed agitato (♩ = 84)**

16 *mf* There is a crack - ling — of dry twigs, A sweep - ing of leaves — *f*

*mf* There is a crack - ling — of dry twigs, A sweep - ing of leaves — *f*

*mf* There is a crack - ling — of dry twigs, A sweep - ing of leaves — *f*

**Più mosso ed agitato (♩ = 84)**

*mf*

20

a - long the ground, Fawn - y fa - ces and dumb eyes -

a - long the ground, Fawn - y fa - ces and dumb eyes -

a - long the ground, Fawn - y fa - ces and dumb eyes -

a - long the ground, Fawn - y fa - ces and dumb eyes -

*mf*

24

Peer \_ through the flut - ter - ing screens \_ That mask fe - ro - cious teeth \_

Peer \_ through the flut - ter - ing screens \_ That mask fe - ro - cious teeth \_

Peer \_ through the flut - ter - ing screens \_ That mask fe - ro - cious teeth \_

Peer \_ through the flut - ter - ing screens \_ That mask fe - ro - cious teeth \_

*mp* *cresc.*

*mp* *cresc.*

*mp* *cresc.*

*mp* *cresc.*

29

and claws \_ Now tran - quil. \_

and claws \_ Now tran - quil. \_

and claws \_ Now tran - quil. \_

and claws \_ Now tran - quil. \_

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

35 *Mosso e con urgenza* (♩ = 92)

*mf* The young ones hear, \_\_\_\_\_  
*mf* up the hill - side, \_\_\_\_\_  
*mf* As the mu - sic sighs \_\_\_\_\_ *f* Come skip-ping, .

*Mosso e con urgenza* (♩ = 92)

40 *f* roll-ing, \_\_\_\_\_ roll-ing, roll - ing down, \_\_\_\_\_  
*f* amb-ling, \_\_\_\_\_ amb - ling, \_\_\_\_\_ down, \_\_\_\_\_  
 skipping \_\_\_\_\_ *mf* down, \_\_\_\_\_ Their soft ears flap-ping .

45 *mf* *f* Their flee - cy coats \_\_\_\_\_ catch-ing, \_\_\_\_\_ catch-ing \_\_\_\_\_  
*mf* as they run, \_\_\_\_\_ *f* catch-ing, \_\_\_\_\_  
 catch-ing \_\_\_\_\_

49 *mf* in the thick - ets, Till they lie, *mp* list - en - ing,

*mf* catch - ing in the thick - ets, Till they lie, *mp* list - en - ing,

*mf* in the thick - ets, Till they lie, *mp* list - en - ing,

54 *p* round his feet. *p*

*p* round his feet. *p*

*p* round his feet. *p*

Stesso tempo ma misterioso (♩ = 96)

59 *mf* Un - seen for cen - tur - ies, Fab - u - lous crea - tures creep out of their caves,

*mf* Un - seen for cen - tur - ies, Fab - u - lous crea - tures creep out of their caves,

*mf* Un - seen for cen - tur - ies, Fab - u - lous crea - tures creep out of their caves,

Stesso tempo ma misterioso (♩ = 96)