

GERARDO DIRIÉ

THE VOID

(2005)

for mixed choir a cappella

retamas



music editions

Meno mosso ♩ = 76 Allegretto ♩ = 100

20 *f* *ppp* *f*

S. re-bus i - na - ne, Uh, uh. quod ti-bi cog -

A. re-bus i - na - ne, Uh, uh. quod ti-bi cog -

T. re-bus i - na - ne, Uh, quod ti-bi cog -

B. re-bus i - na - ne, Uh, Uh. quod ti-bi cog -

26

S. - nos - se in mul - tis e - rit u - ti - le re bus

A. - nos - se in mul - tis e - rit u - ti - le re - bus

T. nos - se in mul - tis e - rit nec si - net

B. nos - se in mul - tis e - rit

31 *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *ff* *p* *mf*

S. et quae - re - re sem - per

A. du - bi - ta - re de summa

T. er - ran - tem du - bi - ta - re In - tac -

B. nec si - net er - ran - tem du - bi - ta - re et quae - re - re sem -

71

S. nul - la ra - tio - ne mo - ve - ri res pos - sent. *loud whisper*

A. VA - - - CANS - - - QUE.

T. nul - la ra - tio - ne mo - ve - ri res pos - sent.

B. nul - la ra - tio - ne mo - ve - ri res pos - sent.

Titus Lucretius Caro
De Rerum Natura, Liber Primus, 229

Nec tamen undique corporea stipata tenentur
omnia natura; namque est in rebus inane.
quod tibi cognosse in multis erit utile rebus
nec sinet errantem dubitare et quaerere semper
de summa rerum et nostris diffidere dictis.
qua propter locus est intactus inane vacansque.
quae si non esset, nulla ratione moveri
res possent...

But yet creation's neither crammed nor blocked
About by body: there's in things a void-
Which to have known will serve thee many a turn,
Nor will not leave thee wandering in doubt,
Forever searching in the sum of all,
And losing faith in these pronouncements mine.
There is a place intangible, a void and room.
For were it not, things could in nowise move...

(Translation by William Ellery Leonard)

Notes on the composition:

In his masterpiece *On the Nature of Things*, Lucretius (99?-55? B.C.) expressed the Epicurean ideals of a mind at peace, while dispelling our fears by explaining disquieting phenomena such as thunder, earthquakes, or death. His verses about *the emptiness* or *the void* contained in all matter tempted my imagination, as his expressions combine an exhilarating mixture of depth, humor, and a dramatic slant against those that find it difficult to relate to things that appear to have no material qualities. It goes almost without saying, how similar are these perceptions to our practice of music or any form of art. In the small dimensions of this choral work, I explored the expressions of obstinacy to persuade and, through some gaps and voids, kept some sonorities of elusive beauty.

G.D.