

# O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

SSA Voices *a cappella*

Evan Ramos

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**Ranges:**

Soprano 1  Soprano 2 

Alto 

Language: Latin  
Use: General/Festival  
Time: Approx. 1:29  
\*Difficulty: Moderate

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## Note from the Composer

*O Magnum Mysterium* is a setting of a Latin sacred text written for Christmas. The text depicts the extraordinary occurring among the ordinary: God coming to earth as a tiny baby, animals in a lowly stable being the first to witness his arrival. Adding dynamic contrast (crescendo/decrescendo) on every phrase and singing legato (smoothly) with a gentle choral tone will reflect the wonder and awe the original text and this setting attempt to communicate.

### Original Latin Text: English Translation:

O magnum mysterium, O great mystery,  
Et admirabile sacramentum, And wonderful sacrament,  
Ut animalia viderunt That animals should see  
Dominum natum the newborn Lord  
jacentem in praeseptio. Lying in a manger.  
O magnum mysterium. Amen. O great mystery. Amen.

### General Latin Pronunciation Guidelines:

1. There are only five pure vowel sounds in Latin:  
A = AH E=EH I = EE O = AW U = OO
2. Strive to flip all R's as if singing in Italian.

### Latin Pronunciation (accented syllables are UPPER CASE):

oh MAH-nyoom mee-STEHR-yoom,\*  
eht ahd-mee-RAH-bee-leh sah-krah-MEHN-toom,  
oot ah-nee-MAH-lee-ah vee-DEHR-oont  
DAW-mee-noom NAH-toom,  
yah-CHEHN-tehm een preh-SEH-pee-aw.  
aw MAH-nyoom mee-STEHR-yoom. AH-mehn.

\*The word "mysterium" in this piece is a three-syllable rather than a four-syllable word. This can be accomplished by pronouncing the last syllable "ium" as "yoom" rather than "ee-oom".

At the end of the piece there are a few cued pitches. These pitches are alternative options and can be sung in place of what is originally written. Feel free to mix and match to find a three-part chord that sounds best for your ensemble.

## About the Composer

Evan Ramos is the assistant choir director at Carroll Senior High School in Southlake, TX. He received a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of North Texas, and is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Music Education at SMU. An avid composer/arranger, his choral music has been performed at conventions, colleges, and schools across the United States. *O Magnum Mysterium* was initially written for the Rice Middle School Varsity Men and the Parkhill Junior High Tenor Bass Choir. *O Magnum Mysterium* was also the "Best Overall" winner at the 2015 TMEA College Division Composition Competition.

# O Magnum Mysterium

for SSA Voices *a cappella*\*

EVAN RAMOS

Slowly, with wonder

*p*

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto

Piano  
(for rehearsal  
only)

Slowly, with wonder

*p*

4

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

\* Also available for TTB Voices (BL919).

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et ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men - tum. Ut a - ni -

et ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men - tum. Ut a - ni -

et - ad - mi - ra - bi - le \_\_\_\_\_ sa - cra - men - tum. Ut a - ni -

ma - li - a vi - de - runt Do - mi-num na - tum ja - cen - tem in\_\_

ma - li - a                      vi - der - unt                      Do - mi-num    ja - cen - tem                      in\_

ma - li - a                      vi - der - unt                      Do - mi-num    ja - cen - tem                      in\_\_

$$mp \quad \left| \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \right| f \quad mp \quad p$$



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