

Notes from the Composer

This piece was inspired by a call for an original signature composition for “Cantate,” the Children’s Choir of Central Virginia with Gordon Betenbaugh as director. I was especially interested as I had worked with Children and Youth Choirs at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Lincoln, Nebraska when Gordon was one of the Ministers of Music there.

I looked for just the right combination of text and when I found it, it seemed to fit the $\frac{5}{8}$, $\frac{6}{8}$ meter. I added the phrase, “Exultate Deo” to the traditional *Cantate Domino* text because I was looking for something different than so many pieces using the same material. I chose $\frac{4}{4}$ for the B section and an English text to add contrast to the piece. As Children’s Choir Repertoire and Standards Committee Chair for North Central Division American Choral Directors Association for 20 years and as a reviewer for the Choral Journal, I have seen and reviewed hundreds of copies of music for children. I wanted something that I thought children could learn easily and would be fun to sing but would provide some challenge. I think *Cantate* is fun to sing and there will certainly be challenges with the meter and the fact that there are three parts with an optional descant. However, I believe the voice leading and great attention to part writing will assist the director in teaching the piece. I suggest speaking the text of the A section in a light voice to find the “swing” of the piece. I also suggest that the A section be conducted in 2, the $\frac{5}{8}$ with a combination of 3 plus 2 and the $\frac{6}{8}$ with a dotted quarter note receiving the beat. Once the piece was completed, I found myself singing it over and over - those that judged the commissions said the same thing.

Cantate would be a great beginning for a concert for an advanced children’s choir and would also lend itself to contests for Middle School and High School ensembles. The Latin text also encourages good singing with appropriate vowel sounds and shapes.

Cantate

SSA and piano with optional descant

Traditional

Carolee R. Curtright

Light and rhythmic ♩ = 76 (♩ = 152)

mf

5 SSA *mf*

Can - ta - te, can - ta - te Do - mi - no can - ta - te

8

can - ti-cum no - vum, can - ta - te, can - ta - te Do - mi - no

11

SI

om - nis ter - ra, om - nes po - pu-li, ex - sul-ta - te,

SII

om - nis ter - ra, om - nes po - pu-li, ex - sul-ta - te,

A

om - nis ter - ra, om - nes po - pu-li, ex - sul-ta - te,

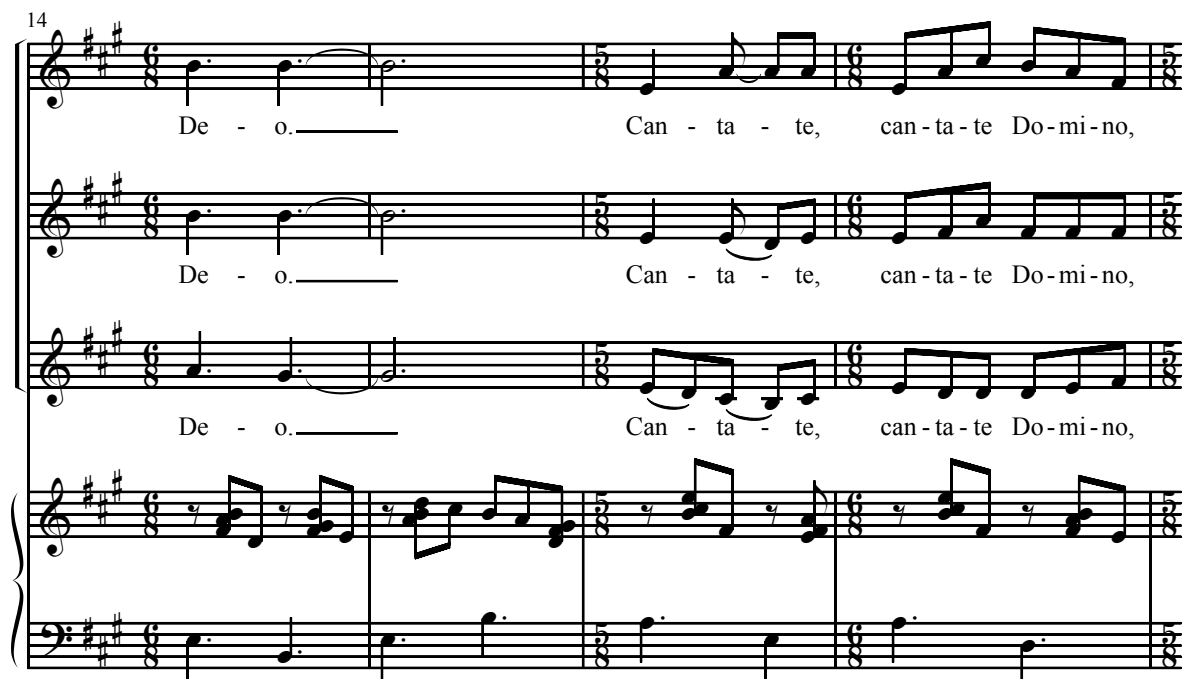


14

De - o. _____ Can - ta - te, can - ta - te Do-mi - no,

De - o. _____ Can - ta - te, can - ta - te Do-mi - no,

De - o. _____ Can - ta - te, can - ta - te Do-mi - no,



18

can - ta - te, can - ti-cum no - vum, can - ta - te,

can - ta - te, can - ti-cum no - vum, can - ta - te,

can - ta - te, can - ti-cum no - vum, can - ta - te,

21

can - ta - te Do - mi - no om - nis ter - ra, om - nes po - pu - li,

can - ta - te Do - mi - no om - nis ter - ra, om - nes po - pu - li,

can - ta - te Do - mi - no om - nis ter - ra, om - nes po - pu - li,

24

rit. *f*

ex - sul - ta - te, ex - ul - ta - te De - o.

rit. *f*

ex - sul - ta - te, ex - ul - ta - te De - o.

rit. *f*

ex - sul - ta - te, ex - ul - ta - te De - o.

$\text{♩} = 100$

27 *rit.* *mp legato*

Sing God's praise to the heav'ns a-bove. Make a

rit. *mp legato*

Sing God's praise to the heav'ns a-bove. Make a

rit. *mp legato*

Sing God's praise to the heav'ns a-bove. Make a

$\text{♩} = 100$

rit. *mp legato*

30

*with growing excitement
cresc.*

joy - ful noise, sing a new song. Make a joy - ful noise, make a

*with growing excitement
cresc.*

joy - ful noise, sing a new song. joy - ful noise,

*with growing excitement
cresc.*

joy - ful noise, - sing a new song. joy - ful noise,

cresc.

33

joy - ful noise, make a joy - ful noise all peo - ple of the

joy - ful noise, make a joy - ful noise all peo - ple of the

joy - ful noise, make a joy - ful noise all peo - ple of the

35 Descant *accel.* **Tempo I** *mf*

Can - ta - te,

SI *mf accel.*
earth. _____ Can - ta - te, can - ta - te Do - mi - no,

SII *mf accel.*
earth. _____ Can - ta - te, can - ta - te Do - mi - no,

A *mf accel.*
earth. _____ Can - ta - te, can - ta - te Do - mi - no,

Tempo I

39

can - ta - te, can -

can - ta - te, can - ti - cum no - vum, can - ta - te,

can - ta - te, can - ti - cum no - vum, can - ta - te,

can - ta - te, can - ti - cum no - vum, can - ta - te,

42

45