Apocalypse

For Solo Soprano and SATB Chorus

By David Lancaster
Apocalypse (2012) draws upon text found in the ‘Prick of Conscience’ window in All Saints Church, North Street, York, in which fifteen panels depict the final days of the world. Some of the original medieval text is used but it is largely presented in a new translation by David Lancaster and Daniela Nunnari.

Performance notes

From the beginning to rehearsal bar 11: all sopranos (including the soloist) are distributed around the auditorium, ideally so as to surround the audience. At bar 11 they begin to return to their position with the remainder of the choir, to be in position by bar 20. From that point, the soprano soloist should occupy a central, raised position (station A below).

At bar 118: two additional soprano duettists move from their regular position to stations either side of the choir (B and C below), where they should remain until the end.

The length of the spoken and whispered passages is approximate.

For SATB chorus with high soprano soloist

Duration: 25'00”

(An alternative version is available in which the music is divided into four movements, which can be interspersed throughout a concert programme).
Apocalypse

Lento
All pauses 3-5 secs.

Soprano Soloist

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Lento

repeat each box x2-4, free time

= c. 120

p

ah ah

ah ah

ah ah

On the first of the fifteen days the sea shall rise  (as the book says)

Rapid whispering

On the first of the fifteen days the sea shall rise (as the book says)
rise (as the book says) as high as a mountain: forty cubits for certain. And the waves will rise up and stand just like a hill does on the land.

fifteen days the sea shall rise (as the book says) as high as a mountain: forty cubits for certain. And the waves will rise up and stand just like a hill does on the land.

as high as a mountain: forty cubits for certain. And the waves will rise up and stand just like a hill does on the land.
On the first of fifteen days the sea will rise as the book says. as high as a
And the waves rise up and stand just as a hill does on the mountain full forty-cubits certain And the waves rise up and stand just as a hill does on the mountain full forty-cubits certain And the waves rise up and stand just as a hill does on the
On the second day the sea will retreat that

solo, stage whisper:

land__ the day sea re-treat

land__

On second the will that

land__
men may see what lies be neath.

may what be neath.

men lies
On the third day, the sea will
seem plain And then return to its calm state again. Just
On the first of the fifteen days the sea

like it had been before, rising and falling no more.
shall rise (as the book says) as high as a mountain: forty cubits for certain. And the waves will rise up and stand just like a hill does

Tutti spoken, staggered entries

On the first of the fifteen days the sea shall rise (as the book says) as high as a mountain: forty cubits for certain. And the waves will rise up and stand just like a hill
The fourth day, there will a wonder be: the strang-est
Creatures that dwell in the sea shall come together and sing
hi - di - ous to men's hear - ing
But what their clam - our may sig - ni -
No one may know but God almighty.

signify God Almighty

signify God Almighty

signify God Almighty

signify God Almighty
On the fifth day the sea will burn. And all other waters as they
run. And this will last from sunrise until the sun sets in the sky.
The second day, the se sal be swa law, that unnethes men sal it knaw.
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trees and spring up on the grass below

hang from the trees spring up on grass the

and spring up on the grass below the

trees and spring up on the grass below

trees and spring up on the grass below

trees and spring up on the grass below

trees and spring up on the grass below
The se(v) tall grass below

On the sev enth day tall

'The tred day, the se sal seem playn And stand even in his cours agayn'.
buildings will fall, and castles too

oh,

oh,
S. Solo

93

S.

and towers tall.

S.

tall then and the oh oh
tutti div.
tutti div.

A.

and towers tall.

A.

then towers tall.

T.

T.

B.

B.

oh

oh

oh

pp

pp
On the eighth day, hard rocks and stones come crashing down all at 101 p cresc. poco a poco

Ah, Eighth day rocks and stones crash down all at 3 cresc. poco a poco

Ah, Eighth day hard stones come crashing down all at}

Tutti speak, independently, repeating.

On the first of the fifteen days the sea shall rise, as the book says, as high as a mountain - forty cubits for certain

Ah, Eighth day rocks and stones crash down all at 3 cresc. poco a poco

On the third day the sea will seem plain and return to its calm state again. Just like it had been before,

Ah, Eighth day hard stones come crashing down all at 3 cresc. poco a poco

On the third day the sea will seem plain and Tutti speak, independently, repeating.

On the first of the fifteen days the sea shall rise, as the book says, as high as a mountain

Eighth day rocks and stones crash down at
once. From the top of the moun-
tain shatt'ring all be-fore them. Un-
til each rock fi nal

- and the waves rise up and stand, just as the hills do on the land. (Repeat)

return to its calm state again. Just like it had been before, rising and falling no more. (Repeat)
On the fourth day there will a wonder

ly will sun-der in-to pie-ces three.

Speaking becomes whispering

pp

pp

pp

On the fourth day, there will a wonder
On the fifth day sea will burn and other waters, as they run.

On the second day the sea will retreat, that men may see what lies beneath. The strangest creatures of the sea shall come together.
Soprano duetists move to positions either side of the chorus.

On the ninth day will come a great earth quake and

On the ninth day will come a great earth quake and

On the ninth day will come a great earth quake and

On the ninth day will come a great earth quake and
Countries on the earth will shake. So a
countries on the earth will shake. So a
countries on the earth will shake. So a
all countries on earth shake. great noise
all countries on earth shake. great noise
all countries on earth shake. great noise
all countries on earth shake. great noise
all countries Shake great noise
was heard, this now all world
was heard, this now all world
was heard, this now all world
was heard, this now all world

never than one in the world
never than one in the world
never than one in the world
never than one in the world

128

mf

ah
ah
ah

mf

ah
ah
ah

ah
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ah

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ah
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ah
ah
ah

ah
ah
ah

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ah
ah
ah

mf

mf
The sevend day bygyns doun sal falle. And grete ca stels, and tours with-alle.

Solo, spoken:

The sevend day bygyns doun sal falle. And grete castels, and tours with-alle.
On the tenth day for so it is given - The earth shall be made plain and even.

On the tenth day so it is given - The earth shall be made plain and even.

On the tenth day for so it is given - The earth shall be made plain and even.
For hills and valleys shall turned be into desert and made even to...
On the sixth day a bloody dew will hang from trees

On the eighth hard and crashing

Spoken, different solo voices:

On and crashing

Spoken, different solo voices:

On the eighth hard come down once

Spoken, different solo voices:

On the rocks at
and spring up on the grass below
will to
d strike

and spring up on the grass below
On the eleventh day
On the eleventh day

and spring up on the grass below
people will come out like mad men
people will come out from caves like
out from caves and holes like
and wend about
and wend about
and wend about
and no one shall men who've lost their wit.

like mad men who've lost their wit.

and no one shall
No one shall speak to the people they speak to the people they speak
On the first of the fifteen days the sea will rise (as the book says), as high as a mountain, forty cubits for certain. And

On the first of the fifteen days the sea will rise (as the book says), as high as a mountain, forty cubits for certain. And
On the twelfth day sea will seem plain, sea will seem plain, gain turn calm state again-

On the twelfth day sea will seem plain, sea will seem plain, gain turn calm state again-

the waves will rise up and stand just like a hill does on the land.

mountain, forty cubits for certain. And the waves will rise up and stand just like a hill does on the land.

sal com to-gyder nd ruk swilk romyng. That shall be hydus til mans heyng. Bot what that romyng sal signify na
On the twelfth day, the Sea will seem plain.

Again

sal signify na mon may wht, but God almyghty.
stars and all__ On the twelfth day__ the stars and all__ the planets

Seem plain__

oh__

oh__

mp__

mp__

ah__

ah__

mp__

ah__

the stars and all__ On the twelfth day__ the stars and all__ the planets

oh__

oh__

oh__

ah__
On the twelfth day the stars and all the planets from highest heaven shall


Shall fall. from

Stars and all

On the second day, the sea, the

On the second day, the sea, the

On the second day, the sea, sea will re-

On the second day, the sea, sea will re-

heav'n

ah

ah
heaven shall fall
Fall

sea will retreat, that men may know what lies beneath. On the

f

On the fifth
treat On the second day, On the second day, the sea, sea will re-

f

On the fifth
treat On the second day, On the second day, the sea, sea will re-

on the fifth day

On the fifth
treat On the second day, On the second day, the sea, sea will re-

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On the fifth
treat On the second day, On the second day, the sea, sea will re-

on the fifth day

On the fifth
treat On the second day, On the second day, the sea, sea will re-

on the fifth day
On the second day, the sea will retreat, that men may know what lies beneath. On the
second day, the sea will retreat, that men may know what lies beneath. On the
second day, the sea will retreat, that men may know what lies beneath. On the
second day.
Heaven shall fall.

On the second day, the sea will retreat, that men may know what lies beneath. On the second day, the sea will retreat.
Second day, the sea will retreat, that men may know what lies beneath. On the second day, on the second day, the sea will retreat.

On the fifth day

On the fifth day

On the fifth day

On the fifth day
On the seventh day, tall

Second day, the sea will retreat, that day

On the second day, on the second day

treat On the second day, On the second day

the sea will burn.

the sea will burn.

the sea will burn.

solo, spoken

On the seventh day, tall

the sea will burn.
buildings will fall, then great castles and towers and all.
burn.
Tempo I \( \bar{=} 48 \)

On the thirteenth day shall dead men's bones be put back to-

Solo, spoken slowly:

On the tenth day - thereafter it

Ah

This_

Ah

This_

Ah

This_

Ah

This_

Ah

This_

Ah

This_
gather and rise all alone
And above on their graves they shall stand.

is given - the earth shall be made plain and even. For hills and valleys shall be turned into desert, and made flat and level

On the ninth day there will be a great earthquake, and all the

On the sixth day a bloody dew will hang from the trees, and spring up on the grass below

On the twelfth day, the stars and all the planets from high heavens will fall.
On their graves they shall stand; this shall be fall through out the land.

On the twelfth day, the stars and all the planets from

countries on earth will shake. So great a noise there was never heard than this one now, in all the world.

On the sixth day a

On the eleventh day people will come out of caves and holes and wend about, like madmen who have lost their wit; and no-one

On the tenth day - thereafter it is given - the earth shall be made plain and even. For hills and valleys shall be
high heavens will fall.

bloody dew will hang from the trees, and spring up on the grass below

shall speak to the others they meet

turned into desert, and made flat and level.
On fourteenth all live the day that then

Individual glisses - different rates.

Different solo voices shouting words from within the choir, approximate timing:

Different solo voices shouting words from within the choir, approximate timing:

Different solo voices shouting words from within the choir, approximate timing:
shall
children
and
die.

Unvoiced
men
women.

ch k ch k ch k ch k
ah

Unvoiced

ch k ch k ch k
ah ah ah

Individual glisses - different rates - one full breath

shall
die:

children
men
women.
they with rise
For will them rise a
ch k ch k ch k ch k
Unvoiced
ch k ch k ch k ah

T.
they
for they will with them rise a

B.
for will them

S. Solo
S duo 1
S duo 2
joy or pain.

joy or pain.
Solo, spoken:

On the eighth day hard rocks and stones will strike together all at once, and each of them shall another down

Solo, spoken:

On the fourth day there will be such a

Solo, spoken:

On the thirteenth day shall dead mens' bones be put back together and rise all
cast and against each other hurtle fast. So that each stone on a different path will sunder the other into pieces three.

Solo, spoken:

wonderous sight: all the strangest creatures of the sea will gather together and make such a clamouring that will

On the tenth day - for so it is given - the earth will be

On the first of the fifteen days the sea will rise, according to the scriptures, as high as a mountain, full forty

alone, and above their own graves each one shall stand, and this will occur throughout the land
Solo, spoken:

On the eleventh day people will emerge from caves and holes, and wend about like madmen who've lost their sound hideous to men's hearing. But what their clamour will signify no-one knows except God almighty. turned flat and even. The hills and valleys will become desert: featureless and plain to see.

cubits for certain. And the waves will rise up, and stand just like a hill does on the land.

On the seventh day tall buildings will fall, along
wit, but no-one will speak to the others they meet.

with great castles and towers tall.

On the second day the sea will retreat, so that men may see what lies beneath.
On the fifteenth -

S. Solo

S duo 1

S duo 2

A.

T.

B.
this shall be tide: all the world where we now re-
S. Solo

S duo 1

S duo 2

S. Solo

S duo 1

S duo 2

S. Solo

S duo 1

S duo 2

side will burn with flames which will not dis - pel.

side will burn with flames which will not dis - pel.

side will burn with flames which will not dis - pel.

side will burn with flames which will not dis - pel.
Until the utter end of Hell. Until the utter end of Hell.

Until the utter end of Hell. Until the utter end of Hell.

Until the utter end of Hell. Until the utter end of Hell.

Until the utter end of Hell. Until the utter end of Hell.
On the first day

On the first day

On the first day
On the first day

S. Solo

S duo 1

S duo 2

S.

ah

mm

A.

On the first day

On the first day

T.

On the first day

On the first day

B.

On the first day

On the first day