

Commissioned by Marymount Secondary School Choir for 2016 Béla Bartók International Choir Competition and Folklore Festival

Gods on the Magpie Bridge

鵲橋仙

For 8-part a cappella female chorus, S.S.S.A.A.A.A.

Lyrics by
Guan QIN
詞 | 秦觀

Music by
David Ho-yi CHAN (2016, rev. 2018)
曲 | 陳浩貽

Phantasmically (♩ = ca. 64)

The musical score is written for an 8-part a cappella female chorus in 4/4 time. It features four Soprano parts (Soprano 1-4) and four Alto parts (Alto 1-4). The tempo is marked 'Phantasmically' with a quarter note equal to approximately 64 beats per minute. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor). The lyrics are in Chinese characters: 'Sh', 'Chu', 'Mm', and 'Sh'. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *pp* (pianissimo). The score includes a 'Regular Time' box at the bottom left. A large red watermark 'Perusal Score Not For Performance' is repeated diagonally across the page.

Free Time Begins

Gods on the Magpie Bridge...

S. 1 (tacet) Ah

S. 2 Ah

S. 3 (tacet) *hold the note with staggered breath*
仙 xiān

S. 4 *ad.lib. p* sh *repeat, unsynchronised with each other, getting denser gradually*

A. 1 *ad.lib. pp* *poco cresc.* *repeat, unsynchronised with each other*
鹊 桥 què qiáo

A. 2 *hold the note with staggered breath* *ad.lib. p* 鹊 桥 què qiáo

A. 3 *hold the note with staggered breath*

A. 4 Ah

Free Time Begins

Time (ca.) 5" 4" 4" 4"

* Singers repeat freely singing the phrase "què qiáo" with the notated rhythm, like a group of magpies to "form" the bridge for the lovers.

Perusal Score Not For Performance

12

ad.lib.
mp

S. 1
 鵲 què 橋 qiáo
repeat, unsynchronised with each other

ad.lib.
mf

S. 2
 鵲 què 橋 qiáo
repeat, unsynchronised with each other, getting denser gradually

ad.lib.
mf

S. 3
 鵲 què 橋 qiáo
repeat, unsynchronised with each other, getting denser gradually

S. 4

A. 1
mf
getting denser gradually

A. 2
repeat, unsynchronised with each other, getting denser gradually

mf

A. 3
ad.lib.
mp
 鵲 què 橋 qiáo
repeat, unsynchronised with each other, getting denser gradually

mf

A. 4
mp
hold the note with staggered breath

mf

仙 xiān

Time (ca.) 4" 4" 4" 5"

16

The score consists of eight staves, labeled S.1 through A.4. The first staff (S.1) begins with a circled number 16 and the instruction "not too dense". A dynamic marking of *mp* is placed above the first staff. Vertical dashed lines are positioned at 5", 11", and 3" on the time axis. The second and third staves (S.2 and S.3) have the instruction "hold the note with staggered breath" and a dynamic marking of *mp*. The fourth staff (S.4) is marked "(tacet)". The fifth staff (A.1) has a dynamic marking of *p* and is marked "(tacet)". The sixth staff (A.2) has the instruction "hold the note with staggered breath" and a dynamic marking of *pp*. The seventh staff (A.3) is marked "(tacet)". The eighth staff (A.4) is marked "(tacet)".

Time (ca.)

5" 11" 3"

Perusal Score
Not For Performance

Phantasmically, Regular Time Resumes (♩ = ca. 64)

Fine wisps of cloud sport their craft,

(F# major suggested)

(D♭ major suggested)

The musical score consists of eight staves, labeled S.1 through S.4 and A.1 through A.4. Each staff contains musical notation with lyrics in Chinese characters and pinyin. The lyrics are: 織 (xiān), 雲 (yún), and 弄 (nòng). The score includes dynamic markings such as *pp* and *mp*, and performance instructions like *Mm*. A circled number '22' is at the beginning of the first staff. A box at the bottom left of the score area contains the text 'Regular Time Resumes'.

Time (ca.)

* Try as much as possible to think in they keys suggested