

Sursum Corda

For Mezzo-soprano, Baritone, and Four Percussionists

Poem by Miquel de Palol

JORGE MUÑIZ

Sursum corda

New York, January 2003

Duration: 9 min.

Commissioned by Festival de Músicas Religiosas del Mundo, Girona.

Mezzo-soprano

Baritone

Four percussionists:

1

Marimba

2

Marimba

Vibraphone (shared with 3)

Tenor drum

Suspended cymbal

3

Marimba

Vibraphone

Wood blocks

Wind chimes

4

Marimba

Suspended cymbal

Tam-tam

Bass drum

No conductor required.

Set-up:

2

3

1

Mezzo-soprano

Baritone

4

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SURSUM CORDA

Mentre hi hagi en la vida
camps i cel, pins i mar;
mentre riguïn els ulls
i les boques s'uneixin
i les roses d'estiu
a l'hivern es marceixin
per tornar a florir
un nou dia més clar;
mentre hi hagi l'anhel
d'un camí on avançar;
mentre hi hagi companys
que a ple sol m'hi segueixin
-siguïn homes o vents-
i un enigma existeixi
per poder a l'Esfinx
de la Nit preguntar,
tota cosa banal,
tota cosa envilida,
passarà pel meu cor
sens deixar-hi verí;
serà pell lo creat,
mal que sigui mentida,
i ni dol ni rancor
guiarà el meu camí.
Seré sempre un infant
encantat de la vida
i tindrè encara, als ulls,
un somrís al morir.

MIQUEL DE PALOL
Girona 1885-1965

SURSUM CORDA

Mientras haya en la vida
campos y cielo, pinos y mar,
mientras rían los ojos
y las bocas se unan
y las rosas del verano
se marchiten en invierno
para florecer de nuevo
en un día más claro;
mientras exista el anhelo
de un camino por el que avanzar,
mientras haya compañeros
que me sigan por él a pleno sol
—sean hombres o vientos—
y exista un enigma
para poder preguntar
a la Esfinge de la Noche,
toda cosa banal,
toda cosa envilecida
pasará por mi corazón
sin dejar veneno en él.
Será bello lo creado
aunque sea mentira
y ni la malicia ni el rencor
guiarán mi camino.
Seré siempre un niño
encantado de la vida
y al morir tendré todavía
una sonrisa en los ojos.

MIQUEL DE PALOL
Girona 1885-1965

Program notes

Sursum corda (Lift Up Your Hearts), scored for mezzo-soprano, baritone, and four percussionists is an ode to optimism, an expression of hope in life. Divided in two sections, the first part features a constant 16th-note motion in the percussion over the text sung by the mezzo-soprano. This incessant motion, representing a desire to live is counterbalanced in the second section, when the baritone joins in a duet the mezzo-soprano. This second and last section, featuring other percussion instruments, transforms the loss of hope in our lives into an exhortation to experience our lives to their fullest possible and enjoy their beauty. Both singers join at the end with the encouraging lines by Miquel de Palol: "I will always be a child, loving life and when I die, I will have a smile in my eyes."

Sursum corda

for mezzo-soprano, baritone, and 4 percussionists

Poem:
Miquel de Palol
(1885-1965)

Music:
Jorge Muñiz
(2003)

Tranquillo (♩=60)

Mezzo-soprano

Baritone

Percussion 1
Marimba
soft mallets
pp

Percussion 2
Marimba
soft mallets
pp

Percussion 3
Marimba
soft mallets
pp

Percussion 4
Susp. cym.
pp

M.

Bar.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4
Susp. cym.
soft mallets
sempre ppp

7

M.

Bar.

Perc. 1

Susp. cym.
soft mallets

cresc.

Perc. 2

cresc.

Perc. 3

cresc.

Perc. 4

Tam-tam

p

10

M.

Bar.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

f *p*

Perc. 4

p

12 rit.

M.

Bar.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

14 ♩=60 Tranquillo (♩=60)

M.

Bar.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

19

M. *mf*

- tre_ hi ha-gi en la vi-da_ camps i cel, pins i mar; men - tre ri-guinelsulls

Bar.

Perc. 1 *pp* *mf*
Marimba
soft mallets

Perc. 2 *pp* *mf*

Perc. 3

Perc. 4 *pp* *mf*
Marimba
soft mallets

25

M. *dim.* *p* *mf*

i les bo - ques s'u - nei - xin i les ro - ses d'es - ti - u a l'hi - vern es mar - cei - xin

Bar.

Perc. 1 *dim.* *p*
(3)

Perc. 2 *dim.* *p*
(3)

Perc. 3 *mf*

Perc. 4 *dim.* *p*
(3)

28 *p* *cresc.* *f*

M. *p* *cresc.* *f*
per tor - nar a flo - rir un no - u di - a més clar;

Bar.

Perc. 1 *cresc.* *f*

Perc. 2 *cresc.* *f*

Perc. 3 *f*

Perc. 4 *cresc.* *p* *cresc.* *f*

31 *mp*

M. *mp*
men - tre hi

Bar.

Perc. 1 *dim.* *p*

Perc. 2 *dim.* *p*

Perc. 3 *dim.* *p*

Perc. 4 *p*
Bass drum

34

M. *p*

ha - gi l'an - hel d'un ca - mí on a - van çar; men -

Bar.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4 *mf* *p* *pp*

38

M. *cresc.* *mf* *cresc.* *f* *dim.*

- tre hi ha - gi com - pa - nys que a ple sol m'hi se - guei - xin

Bar.

Perc. 1 *cresc.* *mf* *dim.*

Perc. 2 *cresc.* *mf* *dim.*

Perc. 3 *cresc.* *f* *dim.* *p*

Perc. 4 *mf*

Bass drum

42 *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

M. *3* *3*
-si - guin ho - mes o vents i un e -

Bar.

Perc. 1 *pp*

Perc. 2 *pp*

Perc. 3 *pp* *mp* *3*

Perc. 4 *p* *pp*

46 *cresc.* *mf* *3* *3*

M. nig - ma e - xis - tei - xi per po - der a l'Es - finx de la

Bar.

Perc. 1 medium mallets *pp* *cresc.* *mf*

Perc. 2 *pp* *cresc.* *mf*

Perc. 3 *p* *cresc.* *mf*

Perc. 4 *pp*

49

M. Nit pre - gun - tar,

Bar.

Perc. 1 (3) *dim.* *ppp*

Perc. 2 *dim.* *ppp* *pp* *mf*

Perc. 3 *dim.* *ppp*

Perc. 4 *mf* *p* *ppp*

Tam-tam

52

M.

Bar.

Perc. 1 *p*

Perc. 2 *p sub*

Perc. 3 Marimba soft mallets *p*

Perc. 4 Marimba soft mallets *p*

55

M.

Bar.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

cresc.

mf *cresc.*

cresc.

mf *cresc.*

cresc.

mf *cresc.*

58

M.

Bar.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

f *dim. molto*

f *dim. molto*

f *dim. molto*

f *dim. molto*

pp

pp

Wood blocks
hard mallets

pp *p* *pp*

Susp. cym.

f *dim. molto*

pp

5 6

62

M.

Bar.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Vibraphone arco

Tenor drum

Bass drum

mf *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp* *p*

p *sempre pp*

67 **Meno** (♩=50) *mf*

M.

Bar.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

mf *mf* *p* *mf*

to - ta co - sa en - vi - li - -
 to - ta co - sa ba - nal,

Meno (♩=50)

72

M. - da

Bar. *pp* *mf*

Perc. 1 pas - sa - rà pel me - u cor sens dei-

Perc. 2 Marimba stopped *mf* *p sub*

Perc. 3 *p* *mf* *pp*

Perc. 4 *p* Tam-tam

76

M. *mf* *f*

Bar. se - rà pell lo cre - at,

Perc. 1 Marimba *p* *mf*

Perc. 2 *pp* *p* *mf*

Perc. 3 Marimba *mf*

Perc. 4 Bass drum *mf* Marimba *mf*

80

M. *mp* *cresc.* *f* *dim.* *p*
 i ni dol ni ran - cor gui - a - rà el me - u ca - mí.

Bar.

Perc. 1 *cresc.* *f* *dim.* *pp*

Perc. 2 *cresc.* *f* *dim.* *pp* *cresc.*

Perc. 3 *cresc.* *mf* *dim.* *pp* *cresc.*

Perc. 4 *p* *cresc.* *f* *dim.* *pp* *cresc.*

83

M. *mf* *p*
 Se - - - ré sem - pre un in - fant

Bar. *mf* *p*
 Se - - - ré sem - pre un in - fant

Perc. 1 *mf* *dim.*

Perc. 2 *mf* *dim.*

Perc. 3 Wood blocks *mf* *p* *mf* *mf*

Perc. 4 *mf* *dim.*

Vibraphone arco

Wind chimes

87 *mp* *mf* *p*

M. en - can - tat de la vi - - da

Bar. *mp* *mf* *p* *f*
en - can - tat de la vi - - da i tin - dré en -

Perc. 1 *p* *cresc.* *mf*

Perc. 2 *p* *mf*

Perc. 3 *mf* *mf* *f*
Vibraphone arco (4) Wind chimes *gliss.* Vibraphone arco

Perc. 4 *mf* *p* *cresc.* *mf*

90 *p* *rit.*

M. als ulls un som - ris al mo - rir.

Bar. *molto dim.* *p* *rit.*
ca - ra als ulls

Perc. 1 *molto dim.* *p* *molto dim.* *pp* *p*

Perc. 2 *molto dim.* *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

Perc. 3 ord. *p* *dim.* *pp*

Perc. 4 *molto dim.* *p* *molto dim.* *pp* *p*

Molto lento (♩=40)

M.
Bar.

Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Perc. 4

Wind chimes
Vibraphone
Bass drum

mp *p* *mp*

98

M.
Bar.

Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Perc. 4

Wood blocks
Vibraphone soft mallets

p *mf* *pp* *mp*
mf *p* *pp* *p* *pp*
pp *p* *pp* *mp*
p *pp*

103

M.

Bar.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

hard mallets

Marimba

hard mallets

l.v.

Marimba

hard mallets

mf

pp

mf

pp

mf

mf

109

M.

Bar.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

soft mallets

soft mallets

soft mallets

soft mallets

Wind chimes

Bass drum

f

poco a poco dim.

f

mf

poco a poco dim.

f

poco a poco dim.

p

mp > pp

soft mallets

p

gliss.

let ring-----

ppp

ppp

p

ppp

f

poco a poco dim.

p

dim.

ppp

Percussion 1

Sursum corda

for mezzo-soprano, baritone, and 4 percussionists

Poem:
Miquel de Palol
(1885-1965)

Music:
Jorge Muñiz
(2003)

Tranquillo (♩=60)

Marimba
soft mallets

3 *pp*

5

8

11 *cresc.*

13 *pp*

15 *rit.* ♩=60

15 **Tranquillo** (♩=60) *ppp*

20 *pp* *mf*

25 *dim.* *p* *cresc.*

30 *f* *dim.* *p*

36 *cresc.* *mf* *dim.*

41 *pp*

46 medium mallets *pp* *cresc.* *mf*

49 *dim.* *ppp* *p*

53

55 *cresc.* *mf* *cresc.*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score for Percussion 1 contains nine staves of music. The notation is primarily in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The first staff (measures 20-24) features chords and single notes, starting with a piano (*pp*) dynamic and ending with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The second staff (measures 25-29) includes triplets and a crescendo (*cresc.*) leading to a piano (*p*) dynamic. The third staff (measures 30-35) contains triplets and a quintuplet, with dynamics ranging from forte (*f*) to piano (*p*). The fourth staff (measures 36-40) shows a crescendo (*cresc.*) to mezzo-forte (*mf*) and then a decrescendo (*dim.*). The fifth staff (measures 41-45) is marked piano-piano (*pp*). The sixth staff (measures 46-48) is labeled 'medium mallets' and features a rhythmic pattern with dynamics from *pp* to *mf*. The seventh staff (measures 49-52) includes triplets and dynamics from *dim.* to *ppp* and *p*. The eighth staff (measures 53-54) continues the rhythmic pattern. The ninth staff (measures 55-58) features a rhythmic pattern with dynamics from *cresc.* to *mf* and back to *cresc.*.

Percussion 1

57

60

f *dim. molto*

65

Vibraphone
arco

Meno (♩=50)

mf

Ped.

70

Ped.

75

Marimba

p *mf*

80

cresc. *f* *dim.* *ppmf*

85

dim. *p* *cresc.*

89

mf *p*

91

molto dim. *pp*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score for Percussion 1 contains ten staves of music. The first staff (measures 57-60) features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic and ending with a *dim. molto* instruction. The second staff (measures 60-65) includes a vibraphone part marked *pp* and a marimba part marked *mf*. A tempo change to 'Meno' (♩=50) is indicated. Pedal markings (Ped.) are present under the vibraphone and marimba parts. The third staff (measures 65-70) continues the marimba part. The fourth staff (measures 70-75) shows the marimba part with a dynamic shift from *p* to *mf*. The fifth staff (measures 75-80) features a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets, marked with dynamics *cresc.*, *f*, *dim.*, and *ppmf*. The sixth staff (measures 80-85) continues this pattern with dynamics *dim.*, *p*, and *cresc.*. The seventh staff (measures 85-89) consists of a series of chords with triplets, marked *mf* and *p*. The eighth staff (measures 89-91) concludes with a triplet marked *molto dim.* and a final chord marked *pp*.

Percussion 1

93 rit. **Molto lento** (♩=40)

p

This system contains measures 93 through 96. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked 'Molto lento' with a quarter note equal to 40 beats. A 'rit.' (ritardando) marking is placed above the first measure. The music consists of a series of chords and rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is located below the first measure.

97

p *mf* *pp* *mp*

This system contains measures 97 through 102. It starts with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The music features a mix of rests and rhythmic patterns. Dynamic markings are placed below the staff: *p* (piano) at the start of measure 100, *mf* (mezzo-forte) in measure 101, *pp* (pianissimo) in measure 102, and *mp* (mezzo-piano) in measure 103.

103 hard mallets

mf

This system contains measures 103 through 108. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The instruction 'hard mallets' is written above the staff. The music includes chords and rhythmic patterns. A dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) is placed below the staff in measure 104.

109 soft mallets

f *poco a poco dim.*

This system contains measures 109 through 111. It starts with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The instruction 'soft mallets' is written above the staff. The music features chords and rhythmic patterns. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is placed below the staff in measure 109, and the instruction 'poco a poco dim.' (poco a poco diminuendo) is written below the staff in measure 110.

112

ppp

This system contains measures 112 through 114. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The music consists of chords and rhythmic patterns. A dynamic marking of *ppp* (pianissimo) is placed below the staff in measure 113.

Percussion 2

Sursum corda

for mezzo-soprano, baritone, and 4 percussionists

Poem:
Miquel de Palol
(1885-1965)

Music:
Jorge Muñiz
(2003)

Tranquillo (♩=60)

Marimba
soft mallets

pp

3

5

Susp. cym.
soft mallets

cresc.

9

rit. ♩=60

pp

Tranquillo (♩=60)

Vibraphone
hard mallets

15

l.v.

p

2

Percussion 2

20 Marimba
soft mallets

(3)

27 *pp* *mf* *dim.* *p*

32 *cresc.* *f* *dim.*

37 *cresc.* *mf* *dim.*

42 *pp* **2**

47 *pp* *cresc.* *mf*

49 *dim.* *ppp* *pp* *mf*

52 *p sub*

55 *cresc.* *mf* *cresc.*

Percussion 2

93 **rit.** **Molto lento** (♩=40)

pp

99 **Wood blocks**

mf *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

103 **Marimba** **hard mallets**

mf *pp* *mf*

108 **soft mallets**

f *mf* poco a poco dim.

111

ppp

Percussion 3

Sursum corda

for mezzo-soprano, baritone, and 4 percussionists

Poem:
Miquel de Palol
(1885-1965)

Music:
Jorge Muñiz
(2003)

Tranquillo (♩=60)

Marimba
soft mallets

Musical notation for measures 1-6. The score is in 4/4 time with a tempo of ♩=60. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notation includes a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, and a bass line with chords. The dynamic marking *pp* is present at the beginning.

Musical notation for measures 7-9. The notation includes a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, and a bass line with chords. The dynamic marking *cresc.* is present at the end of the section.

Musical notation for measures 10-11. The notation includes a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, and a bass line with chords. The dynamic markings *f* and *p* are present.

Musical notation for measures 12-13. The notation includes a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, and a bass line with chords. The dynamic marking *pp* and the tempo marking *rit.* are present.

Musical notation for measures 14-17. The notation includes a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, and a bass line with chords. The tempo marking ♩=60 and **Tranquillo** (♩=60) are present. The dynamic marking *ppp* is present. A fermata is placed over the final measure, which is marked with a **7**.

Percussion 3

Vibraphone
medium mallets

25 *mf* *cresc.*

29 *f* *p* *dim.*³

32 *p* *p*

38 *cresc.* *f* *dim.* *p* l.v.

42 *pp* *mp* *p*

47 *cresc.* *mf* *dim.* *ppp*

52 Marimba
soft mallets *p* *cresc.* *mf* *cresc.*

Percussion 3

Wood blocks
hard mallets

57

f *dim. molto* *pp* *p*

61

pp *mf* *pp* *mf* *p*

65

Meno (♩=50)

mp *p* *mf*

69

p *mf* *p*

73

mf *pp*

76

p

Percussion 3

79 **Marimba**

mf *cresc.* *mf* *pp* *cresc.*

83 **Wood blocks** **Vibraphone arco** **Wind chimes**

mf *p* *mf* *mf*

87 **Vibraphone arco** **Wind chimes** (4) **Vibraphone arco** ord. *dim.*

mf *mf* *f* *p* *dim.*

Molto lento (♩=40)

93 **Vibraphone** **Wind chimes** *rit.*

pp *mp* *mp* *p*

98 **Vibraphone soft mallets**

pp *p* *pp* *mp*

103 **Marimba** *l.v.*

pp *mf*

109 **soft mallets**

f *poco a poco dim.* *p* *mp* *pp*

112 **Wind chimes** **Bass drum** *let ring*

p *gliss.* *p*

Percussion 4

Sursum corda

for mezzo-soprano, baritone, and 4 percussionists

Poem:
Miquel de Palol
(1885-1965)

Music:
Jorge Muñiz
(2003)

Tranquillo (♩=60)

4

Susp. cym.
soft mallets

Tam-tam

sempre ppp

p

11

rit.

♩=60

Tam-tam

2

Tam-tam

p < >

ppp

pp

19

Marimba
soft mallets

pp

mf

25

(3) (3)

dim.

p

p

cresc.

f

31

Bass drum

p

mf

p

37

3

Bass drum

pp

mf

p

pp

43

2

pp

Percussion 4

49 Tam-tam Marimba
soft mallets
mf *p* *ppp* *p*

53 *cresc.*

56 Susp. cym.
mf *cresc.* *f dim. molto*

60 Bass drum
pp *p* *sempre pp*

67 **Meno** (♩=50) **2** **2**
mf *p* *p*

75 Tam-tam Bass drum Marimba
mf *dim.* *mf*

80 *p* *cresc.* *f* *dim.* *pp* *cresc.*

83 *mf* *dim.*

87 *mf* *p* *cresc.* *mf* **3**

90 *molto dim. p* *molto dim.* *pp* *p* rit.

94 Bass drum *mp* *p* *mp* **Molto lento** (♩=40)

98 *p* *pp*

103 Marimba hard mallets *mf*

109 soft mallets *f* *poco a poco dim.* *p* *dim.* *ppp*