

Nicholas Weininger

# Diffugere nives

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Horace

SATB a cappella

2019, revised 2020

## Notes on the Work

Horace's ode reminds us of both the sweetness and the ephemerality of life. The changing moods of my setting reflect that contrast, and artistic consideration should be given accordingly: the first and last sections should be quite joyful and dancelike, the middle section mournful and contemplative. Structurally the piece aims to make the old ways of Renaissance counterpoint new by introducing rhythms and tonalities that the masters of motet writing would never have used, while retaining their interweaving, playful, floridly tone-painting spirit. I am grateful to Vince Peterson, Kirke Mechem, and Elizabeth Kimble for their insightful feedback.

Nicholas Weininger  
July 8, 2020  
San Francisco, California

Diffugere nives, redeunt iam gramina campis arboribusque comae;

Mutat terra vices et decrescentia ripas flumina praetereunt.

Gratia cum Nymphis geminisque sororibus audet ducere nuda choros.

Inmortalia ne speres, monet annus et alium quae rapit hora diem...

Nos ubi decidimus, quo pius Aeneas, quo Tullus dives et Ancus, pulvis et umbra sumus.

Quis scit an adiciant hodiernae crastina summae tempora, di superi?

Cuncta manus avidas fugient heredis, amico quae dederis animo.

The snows have fled, grasses return to the fields and leaves to the trees;

the earth changes by turns and in diminished banks the rivers flow.

A Grace, with the Nymphs her twin sisters, dares to lead the dancing naked.

Do not hope for immortality, say the year and the hour that hurries away the kindly day...

When we descend [to the grave], where righteous Aeneas, where rich Tullus and Ancus [have gone], we are dust and shadow.

Who knows if they will add tomorrow to today's total of time, the gods above?

All will escape the greedy hands of your heirs which you give to your own dear soul.

Duration: approximately 4 minutes

# Diffugere nives

Horace Ode 4.7

Nicholas Weininger

Lively ♩ = 104 (2+2+3) *mf*

Soprano  
Re - de-unt i-am gra-mi-na cam - pis

Alto  
*mf*  
Re - de-unt i - am

Tenor  
*mf*  
Re - de-unt i - am gra-mi-na cam -

Bass  
Dif - fu - ge - re\_\_ ni - ves\_\_ Gra - mi - na

Piano (rehearsal only)

6 *p* *mf* (3+2+2)

S.  
Gra-mi-na cam - pis Ar - bo - ri - bus-que co - mae Ar - bo - ri - bus-que co - mae\_\_

A.  
*p* *mf*  
gra-mi-na cam - pis Ar - bo - ri - bus-que co - mae Ar - bo - ri - bus-que co - mae Mu - tat

T.  
*p* *mf*  
- - pis Ar - bo - ri - bus-que co - mae Ar - bo - ri - bus-que co - mae Mu - tat

B.  
*p* *mf*  
cam - pis Ar - bo - ri - bus-que co - mae Ar - bo - ri - bus-que co - mae\_\_

Pno.

12

*p* *mf* (2+2+3) (3+2+2) *mf*

S. Mu - tat ter-ra vi - ces Mu-tat ter - ra vi - ces Mu-tat

A. ter - ra vi - ces Mu - tat ter - ra vi - ces Mu-tat

T. ter - ra vi - ces Mu - tat ter - ra vi - ces Mu-tat

B. *p* *mf* *mf*  
Mu - tat ter-ra vi - ces Mu-tat ter - ra vi - ces Mu-tat

Pno.

19

(2+2+3) *p* *p* *p* *p*

S. ter - ra vi - ces Et de - cre - scen - ti - a ri - pas

A. ter - ra vi - ces Et de - cre - scen - ti - a ri - pas

T. ter - ra vi - ces Et de - cre - scen - ti - a

B. ter - ra vi - ces Et de - cre - scen - ti - a

Pno.

23 (3+2+2) (2+2+3) *mp* (3+2+2)

S. *mp* Flu - mi-na Gra - ti - a cum -

A. Flu - mi-na prae - te-re-unt

T. *mp* prae - te - re-unt Gra -

B. *mp* Flu - mi-na prae - te-re-unt Flu - mi - na prae - te-re-unt

Pno.

29 (2+2+3)

S. Nym - phis ge-mi-nis - que so - ro - ri - bus ge-mi-nis - que so - ro - ri - bus ge-mi-nis - que so -

A. Gra - ti - a cum Nym - phis ge-mi-nis - que so - ro - ri - bus ge - mi -

T. ti - a cum Nym - phis

B. Gra - ti - a cum Nym -

Pno.

32

S. *mf*  
 ro-ri-bus ge - mi - nis - que so-ro-ri-bus au - det du-ce-re nu - da cho-ros au - det du - ce - re

A.  
 nis - que so - ro - ri - bus so - ro - ri - bus au - det du-ce-re nu - da cho-ros

T.  
*mf*  
 au - det du - ce - re nu - da

B.  
 - phis

Pno.

37

S. *f*  
 nu - da cho-ros au - det du - ce - re nu - da

A. *mf* *f*  
 au - det du - ce - re nu - da cho-ros au - det du - ce - re

T. *f*  
 cho - ros au - det du - ce - re

B.

Pno.

40

S. *mf* *p*  
 cho - ros In - mor - ta-li-a ne spe - res

A. *p*  
 nu - da cho - ros In - mor -

T. *mp* *p*  
 nu - da cho - ros nu - da cho - ros In -

B. *mp*  
 nu - da cho - - ros

Pno.

48

S. In - mor - ta-li-a ne spe - res mo-net an-nus et al -

A. ta-li-a ne spe - res mo-net

T. mor - ta-li-a ne spe - res ne spe - res mo-net an-nus et al -

B. *p*  
 In - mor - ta-li-a ne spe - res mo-net

Pno.

55 **poco rit.** **Mournful** ♩ = 90 **mf**

S. mum quae ra-pit ho - ra di - em\_ Nos u-bi de-

A. an-nus et al - mum quae ra-pit ho-ra di - em Nos u-bi de - ci-di-mus

T. s mum quae ra-pit ho - ra ho-ra di - em Nos u-bi de - ci-di-mus

B. an-nus et al - mum quae ra-pit ho - ra di - em\_ Nos u-bi de - ci-di-mus

Pno.

62 **mp**

S. ci - di-mus quo pi - us Ae - ne - as quo Tul - lus di - ves et An - cus

A. Nos u - bi de - ci - di - mus Nos u - bi de - ci - di - mus

T. s Nos u - bi de - ci - di - mus Nos u - bi de - ci - di - mus **pp**

B. Nos u - bi de - ci - di - mus Nos u - bi de - ci - di - mus\_ Pul - vis\_

Pno.



67 *pp* *rit.* *A tempo*

S. Pul - vis et um - bra su - mus Pul - vis et um - bra su - mus

A. *pp* Pul - vis et um - bra su - mus Pul - vis et um - bra su - mus

T. *pp* Pul - vis et um - bra su - mus Pul - vis et um - bra su - mus *mf*

B. et um - bra su - mus Quis scit an a -

Pno.

72 (2+2+3) *mf* *p*

S. Quis scit an a - di-ci-ant a - di - ci - ant ho-di-er - nae

A. *mf* *p* Quis scit an a - di - ci - ant ho-di-er - nae

T. *mf* *p* Quis scit an a - di-ci-ant ho-di-er - nae

B. di-ci-ant a - di - ci - ant ho-di-er - nae

Pno.

78 *mf*

S. cra-sti-na sum - mae ho-di-er - nae cra-sti-na sum - mae tem-po - ra, di su -

A. *mf* cra-sti-na sum - mae ho-di-er - nae cra-sti-na sum - mae tem-po - ra, di su -

T. *mf* cra-sti-na sum - mae ho-di-er - nae cra-sti-na sum - mae tem-po - ra di su -

B. *mf* cra-sti-na sum - mae ho-di-er - nae cra-sti-na sum - mae tem-po - ra di su -

Pno.

83 *f* *mf* (3+2+2)

S. pe - ri Cun - cta ma - nus a - vi - das fu-gi-ent he-re-dis fu-gi-ent he-re-dis

A. *f* *mf* pe - ri Cun - cta ma - nus a - vi - das fu-gi-ent

T. *f* *mf* pe - ri Cun - cta ma - nus a - vi - das fu-gi-ent

B. *f* *mf* pe - ri Cun - cta ma - nus

Pno.

87

S. a - mi - co quae de - de - ris

A. he-re-dis fu-gi-ent he - re - dis A - mi - co quae

T. a - mi - co quae de - de - ris

B. a - vi - das fu - gi - ent he-re-dis A - mi - co quae

Pno.

91 **rit.**

S. a - - - ni - - - mo.

A. de - de - ris a - - - ni - - - mo.

T. a - - - ni - - - mo.

B. de - de - ris a - - - ni - - - mo.

Pno.