

**Malcolm Dedman**

# **Christmas Cantata - "The Word was Made Flesh"**

**for Flute (doubling Treble Recorder),  
Percussion, Male Speaker, Choir (SATB)  
(with soprano solo from choir) and Organ**

1975 rev. 2010

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**Duration: 18 mins 45 secs**

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## *Instrumental and Vocal forces:*

Flute, doubling Treble Recorder  
Percussion: 2 Bongos, Conga Drum, Taiko Drum \*,  
Clash Cymbals, Large Suspended Cymbal, Windchimes.  
Male Speaker  
Choir (SATB) with Soprano Solo from choir  
Organ

\* Alternatives to Taiko Drum may be found, for example, African Drum, deep Conga Drum, or any drum of medium pitch. A Side Drum without snares could be used if nothing else is available.

## *Performance Notes*

**Male Speaker:** This part is written on a 5-line staff when relative pitch is required (indicated by cross noteheads) and on a 1-line staff when the speaker is required to speak at a natural pace and pitch. It is preferred that the speaker uses a public address system to ensure his voice is heard clearly.

**Choir:** Much use is made of speech rhythms and the notation for this is cross noteheads (indicating relative pitches) on a 5-line staff, as for the speaker part.

Members of the choir are also required to clap rhythms. It is suggested that the choir is split into two, but only using those members with a good sense of rhythm. Clapping is notated on two 1-line staves for groups 1 & 2. It is also suggested that the two groups are located on each side of the performing area.

**Flute/Recorder:** It is permissible for the flautist to play flute throughout should difficulty be found with playing the treble recorder.

Words are from the Jerusalem Bible (original version).

Texts used are: John 1: 1-5, 9-14; Luke 1: 26-38; Matthew 1: 23; Luke 1: 46-55;  
Luke 2: 1-20 and Matthew 3: 3.

First performed in December 1975 by the Birmingham Festival Choral Society, conducted by Jeremy Patterson, who commissioned this work. It was performed in St. Martin's in the Bull Ring, Birmingham, United Kingdom.

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## 1. Prelude

Jerusalem Bible

Malcolm Dedman

Moderato, ♩ = 92

Treble Recorder

Organ

Note: Registrations for organ are indicated. Use these where possible, but when not available, use a close match.

Tr. Rec.

10 15

Tr. Rec.

Tr. Rec. 20

Org. 8' Hautbois (oboe) f 5 3

Tr. Rec.

Tr. Rec. 25

Org. 5 mf

Tr. Rec.

Tr. Rec. 30

Org. 5 mf

Tr. Rec. poco rit. 40 To Flute

Org.

Musical score for Tr. Rec. and Org. The Tr. Rec. part starts at measure 35 with dynamics *mp*, *p*, and *f*. The Org. part features triplets and a *f* dynamic. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 and then to 6/8.

**John 1: 1-5, 9-14**

**2. The Word**

Moderato, ♩ = 92  
2 Bongos and Conga Drum, with sticks

Percussion 5

Male Speaker

In the be - gin-ning was the Word: the Word was with God and the

Musical score for Percussion and Male Speaker. Percussion includes dynamics *mf* and *p*. Male Speaker has triplets and lyrics.

Perc. 10

Male Spk

Word was God. He was with God in the be-gin-ning. Through Him all

Musical score for Perc. and Male Spk. Perc. includes dynamics *p* and *mf*. Male Spk has triplets and lyrics.

Perc. *f*

Male Spk

things came to be, not one thing had its be-ing but through Him. All that came to be had life in.

Musical score for Perc. and Male Spk. Perc. includes dynamics *mf* and *f*. Male Spk has triplets and lyrics.

Perc. *mf*

S. Spoken *mf*

T. The Word was

Male Spk

— Him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that dark-ness

Musical score for Perc., S., T., and Male Spk. Perc. includes dynamics *f* and *mf*. S. and T. have lyrics. Male Spk has triplets and lyrics.

Fl. *f* 3 5 20 3 5

Perc. 2 Bongos and Conga Drum *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

S. Nasal tone *f* *mf* God. e

A. Nasal tone *mf* a

T. Nasal tone *mf* *f* *mf* i o

B. *mf* He was wi - th Go -

Male Spk. *Spoken naturally* *f* could not o - ver - power. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and He was coming

Org. Diaphason, 8' + 4' *mf*

25

Fl. *mf* *p*

Perc. 2 Bongos and Conga Drum *mf* *p* non trem.

S. Spoken *p*  
He was wi - th Go - d i - n the

A. *p* whispered *mf*  
The Word

T. Spoken *p*  
He was wi - th Go - d

B. *p*  
d i - n the be - gi - n - ning.

Male Spk *mf*  
into the world. He was in the world that had its being through Him, and the world did not know Him.

Org.

30

Fl. *mf* *p* *pp*

Perc. 2 Bongos and Conga Drum *pp*

S. *pp*  
be - gi - n - ning. The Word was the true light.  
Spoken *pp*

A. *pp*  
was with God. The Word was the true

T. *pp*  
i - n the be - gi - n - ning. The Word was the true light.  
whispered *mf*

B. Spoken *pp*  
The Word was with God. The Word was the true

Male Spk *p*  
He came to His own domain and His own people did not accept Him. But to all who did accept Him