



**Nancy Van de Vate**

# **VOICES OF WOMEN**

**Cantata for Women's Chorus  
and Orchestra**

**1979/93**

Vienna Masterworks (BMI)  
Margaretenstrasse 125/15  
A-1050 Vienna, Austria

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# Voices of Women

Cantata for Women's Chorus  
and Orchestra

1979  
(Rev. 1993)

*Voices chorus*

Nightlong, Daylong, as the Sweet... *soprano solo*

*Faces chorus*

The Little Old Women *contralto solo*

*Tears chorus*

**Voices**

The voices blend and fuse in clouded silence: silence that is the infinite of space. Swiftly the soul is wafted over regions of cycles of cycles of generations that have lived.

James Joyce. *Ulysses*<sup>1</sup>

**Nightlong, Daylong As The Sweet**

Nightlong, daylong, as the sweet  
Nightingale his love doth greet,  
Nightlong, daylong, I lie at my sweetheart's feet,  
Neath the flower  
Till the watchman from his tower cries:  
" 'Tis dawn!" Fair lovers rise, 'tis dawn!  
Soon bright day will gild the skies.  
Nightlong, daylong, I lie at my sweetheart's feet.  
Nightlong, daylong.

Anon. Provençal, 12<sup>th</sup> Century  
(Trans. by Maurice Valery)<sup>2</sup>

**Faces**

The old face of the mother of many children.  
She looks out from her quaker cap, her face is clearer and more  
beautiful than the sky.  
She sits in an armchair under the shaded porch of the farmhouse,  
The sun just shines on her old white head.  
The justified mother of men.

Walt Whitman

**The Little Old Women**

Their eyes are ponds made of a million tears.  
These were once women.  
All might have made a river with their tears!  
They toddle like little marionettes,  
Or drag their bodies like hurt animals.  
Ashamed to be alive, shrunken shadows,  
Fearful, with bent backs they hug the walls;  
Have you noticed how the coffins of old  
Women are often as small as a child's?

Charles Baudelaire  
(Trans. by Barbara Gibbs)<sup>3</sup>

**Tears**

Tears! tears! tears!  
In the night, in solitude, tears,  
On the white shore dripping, dripping, suck'd in by the sand,  
Tears, not a star shining, all dark and desolate,  
Moist tears from the eyes of a muffled head;  
O who is that ghost? that form in the dark, with tears?  
What shapeless lump is that, bent crouch'd there on the sand?  
Streaming tears, sobbing tears, throes, choked with wild cries;  
O storm, O wild and dismal night storm, with wind—desperate,  
O shade so sedate and decorous by day, with calm countenance and  
regulated pace,  
But away at night as you fly, none looking--O then the unloosen'd  
ocean,  
Of tears! tears! tears!

Walt Whitman

1. Used with permission of the Society of Authors, London, England.
2. Reprinted by permission from *An Anthology of Medieval Lyrics*, ed. Angel Flores, Doubleday & Co., N.Y., 1962.
3. Reprinted by permission from *An Anthology of French Poetry from Nerval to Valery in English Translation*, ed. Angel Flores, Doubleday & Co., N.Y., 1958.

**SSAA Chorus**

Piccolo

Flute

Clarinet in Bb

Percussion I and II

Celesta (sounding 8ve higher)

Harp

Strings

**Percussion I**

Vibraphone

Suspended cymbal

Triangle (lg.)

Triangle (med.)

Tambourine

Snare drum

Afuche / cabasa

Temple blocks

**Percussion II**

Suspended cymbal

Chimes

Tam-Tam (med.)

Snare drum

Afuche / cabasa

Tambourine

Tom-Tom (med.)

Triangle (lg.)

**Shared**

Timpani

Large Tam-Tam

Bass drum

Duration: 20 minutes

Score in C

VOICES

James Joyce

Nancy Van de Vate

*♩ = ca. 52*

Score for voices and instruments. The vocal parts (Soprano I, Soprano II, Alto I, Alto II) are currently silent. The instrumental parts include:

- Piccolo**: Silent.
- Flute**: *mp* to *p* dynamics.
- B♭ Clarinet**: *p* dynamics.
- Percussion**: Includes *SUSP. CYMBAL*, *VIBRAPHONE* (*mf*), *MED. TRIANGLE* (*p*), *MED. TAM-TAM*, and *SUS. CYMB. Timstick* (*pp*).
- Celesta**: *pp* to *mf* dynamics.
- Harp**: *p* dynamics, includes a chord list: *D# C# B# E# F# G# A#*.
- Violins I & II**: *pp* dynamics, *con sord.* (con sordina).
- Violas**: *pp* dynamics, *con sord.*
- Violoncellos**: *pp* dynamics, *con sord.*
- Double Basses**: *pp* dynamics, *con sord.*

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S. I. *p* voi — and fuse in cloud-ed si — *mp* *f* 10

S. II. *p* blend and fuse in cloud — si - lence; *mp* *f*

A. I. *p* - ces — and fuse in cloud - - ed si - lence; *mp* *f*

A. II. *p* The — and fuse in cloud - - ed si - lence; *mp* *f*

*{ Whisper, then speak, words from bars 5-8 in any order. Each speaker should try to be independent of the others.*

Picc. *pp*

F1. *pp*

BbCl. *pp*

Perc. I *p* *Lq. Tam-tam* *SUS. CYM.* *VIBR. h.c.* *mf*

Perc. II *Lq. Tam-t* *TIMP* *mp*

Cel. 5 *p* *ppp* 10 *mp*

Harp

Violins I 5 *senza sord.* *p* *senza battuta* 10 *mf*

Violins II *senza sord.* *p* *senza battuta* *mf*

Violas *senza sord.* *p* *senza battuta* *mf*

Vc. *senza sord.* *p* *senza battuta* *mf*

D.B. *senza battuta* *mf*

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PREVIEW

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