

Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words, Number 1

“Radiant Heart” – “Galon Disglair”

(sung in Welsh and English)

A bit of background

Source:

<http://www.stonepages.com/forum/index.php?/topic/2846-canur-pwnc-welsh-ritual-chanting/>

'The very ancient form of choral singing that you can hear on this track occurs in Pembrokeshire and western Carmarthenshire. 'Canu'r Pwnc' is the chanting of scriptural text and usually takes place around Whitsuntide. The rhythmic structure and harmonization is startling to modern ears, and yet this form of declamatory singing is very common and very well-known throughout the region. The singing can last continually for an entire weekend, with people from different villages taking over the baton after a period to keep up the momentum. This is a recording of Capel Rhydwylym singing at a gymanfa bwnc (the event at which the can'r pwnc is sung) in Maenclochog, Pembrokeshire, in 1967.'

[This text may be from The Rough Guide - the music of Wales (RGNET 1052 CD)]

You can hear one example of the form by previewing Track 5 here:

<http://www.allmusic.com/album/the-rough-guide-to-the-music-of-wales-mw0000098608>

There is also a 1960s video of the style being performed here:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/southwestwales/hi/people_and_places/history/newsid_8455000/8455329.stm

Notes/pitches

Bass note = E3

Tenor note = B3

Alto note = E4

Soprano note = A4

The notes are played in this sequence at the beginning of the practice file (or given to you by the conductor).

Comments

- Each line should be sung in one breath
- Each line is repeated three times (there are nine lines in English, nine in Welsh, with one interlude, making 19 lines in total)
- A fermata could be placed on the starting note of each line
- Ideally each line should increase in tempo; the tempo then resets

Lyrics – English

O SON OF SPIRIT! My first counsel is this:

Possess a pure, kindly and radiant heart,

that thine may be a sovereignty ancient, imperishable and everlasting.

Lyrics – Welsh

O Fab Yr Ysbryd! Dyna Fy nghyngor cyntaf:

mynnwch galon bur, caredig a disglair,

fel y bydded i chi sofraniaeth hynafol, anfarwol a thragwyddol.

Lyrics – Welsh, phonetically

O vahb urr us-prith! Dun-ah vuhng-hung-orr cuhn-taav:

muun-uch gah-lon beer, cah-reh-dig ah diss-gl-eye-urr,

vehl uh-buhth-ed ich-ee sohv-ran-ee-ayth huhn-avv-ol, ahn-vahrr-wol ah

thrag-with-oll.