Kjell Habbestad:

AND I JOHN

και εγο Ιοαννες

baryton voice
and organ

dedicated to John Magnuson

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Words: Revelation of St. John the Divine 21,1-6
ελληνιστι and English

Duration: 15 min

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comitted by John Magnuson and Tor Grønn
supported by Det Norske Komponistfond 1987
first performed in the St. Magnus Cathedral Kirkwall,
Orkneys June 22. 1987

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fonts on titel page: Athens 14, 18 , 24 and 72 points (plain and outline)
and Symbol 18 and 36 points

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And I John *(Revelation 21,1-6)* is an introverted apocalypse containing antique as well as contemporary ingredients. The Revelation took place on the island of Patmos and its original version is written in Greek. To give a "genuine" atmosphere for an apocalyptic work the prophet's visions first are announced word by word in an introspective and mystic atmosphere, then directed to the audience and narrated in English.

The musical language is also inspired by greek antique material. In addition to the use of greek scales (cromatic and enharmonic), I have used quotations from several papyri remnants; a.o. Oslo Papyrus. [1)]

The zenith of the piece (the great voice out of heaven) is inspired by Samaritan (Israeli) cantillation as it is still practised in the town Holon south of Tel Aviv. [2)]

I discovered that the musical material and aesthetics from both the ancient Greek and the surviving Samaritan cultures corresponded surprisingly well with the expression of my own compositoric language. It therefore felt quite natural adapting this material into my own context. Especially in the case of Oslo Papyrus the use of ancient material gets a double meaning to me; the papyrus which was discovered and published in Oslo(!) in 1955 (the year of my birth) constitutes **one** among a few very rare fragments which has come down to us from Ancient Greece. In itself this papyrus is a revelation of a musical culture of which nearly nothing is left.

My utilization of the musical material is of course very free and disrespectful. Not at any point of time I have been trying to recreate a genuine antique sound or practise of interpretation. The remnants has only been serving as a catalyst for my own creativity.

In many respects the ancient material feels like being contemporary, prospective or even timeless (eternal). The fascination of these layers of time makes this material unique and most suitable in describing St. John the Divine getting a glimpse of the celestial magnificence; he at the same time looks back into the perfect and forgotten Paradise, and forward into the hope of his future and the future of all mankind.

K. Habbestad

1) (published by Amundsen and Winnington-Ingram in Symbolae Osloenses 1955, interpreted by Atrium Musicae de Madrid, realised and directed by Gregorio Paniagua, at the record 'Musique de la Grèce Antique' HM 1015).

2) based on own recordings from a visit to the Samaritans in January 1984 and the article 'The Reliability of oral transmission: the case of Samaritan Music' by Ruth Katz, Jerusalem (Yuval, studies of the Jewish Music Research Centre vol III).

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AND I JOHN

χαι εγο Ιοαννεσ

1. kai eídon ûranón kainón kai gên kainên.
ho gar prôtos uranós kai hê prótê gê apêlthan,
kai hê thálassa ûk éstin éti.

1. And I saw a new heaven and a new earth:
for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away;
and there was no more sea.

2. kai ego Ioannês tên pólin tên hagían Ierûsalêm kainên
eídon katabainûsan ek tû ûranú apó tû theû,
hêtoimasménên hôs nymfên kekosmêménên tô andrí autês.

2. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem,
coming down from God out of heaven,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3. kai êkûsa fônês megálês ek tû thrónû legûsês:
idû hê skênê tû theû metá tôn anthrôpôn,
kai skênôsei met' autôn kai autoí laoí autû ésontai,
kai autós ho theós met' autôn éstai,

4. kai eksaleípsei pân dákryon ek tôn ofthalmôn autôn,
kai ho thánatos ûk éstai éti, ûte penthos ûte kraugê ûte pónos
ûk éstai éti ta prôta apêlthan.

3. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying,
Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men,
and he will dwell with them,
and they shall be his people,
and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes:
and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying,
neither shall there be any more pain:
for the former things are passed away.

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5. kai eípen ho kathêmenos epí tô thróno:
idû kainá poió pánta. kai légei: Grápson,
hóti hûtoi hoi lógoi pistoí kai alêthinoí eisin.

5. *And he that sat upon the throne said,*
Behold, I make all things new.
And he said unto me, Write:
for these words are true and faithful.

6. *And he said unto me John: It is done.*
I am Alpha and O, the beginning and the end.
I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain
of the water of life freely.

6. kai eípén moi: Gégonan.
Egô to álfa kai to ô, hê archê kai to télos.
Egô tô dipsônti dôsô ek tês pegês tû hydatos tês zôês dôreân.

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A special thank to prof. Egil Kraggerud for his helpful assistance in transcribing the Greek words into Latin letters providing Norwegian phonemes for the achievement of an approximately perfect pronounciation.

γραψον, οτι ηυτοι οι λογοι πιστοι και αληθινοι εισιν

ΑΠΟ Ι ΛΟΗΔ

και εγο Ιοαννες

Kjell Habberstad '87

A

Rubato

mystically

P

Kai ei don ũ ra non Kai non Kai gen Kai-

II Ged 8'

Org

nén

mp

ho gar prótos ũra nos

I R.fl 8'

Org

Sub 16' Ged 8'

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Kai hē prote gē a pel than

Kai he thalassa ūk estin eti

Org

Bar.

lento accelerando

+ Fl 4'

Org

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B Recitando

Bar.

+ Pr. 4'

Org

I/Ped

Bar.

Org

+ Gamba 8'

+ Fl 2'

I: + Fl 4'

+ Pr. 8'

Bar.

Org

+ Nasat 1 3/5

+ Sed. 1'

+ Okt 4'

I: + Okt 2'

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C ♩=60

Bar.

mp

And I saw a new hea— ven

Org

II

Ged 8'

I R.fl. 8'

I: + Fl 4'

÷ I/Ped

Bar.

mf

a new heaven and a new earth

Org

II +Fl 4'

Bar.

mp

for the first heaven

mf

and the first

Org

NB noter
This music is copyright protected

Bar.

mp

1)

earth were passed a way

mf

and there was no more

Org

1)

pass-ed a

Bar.

Org

mp

Sea

Cresc.

D Rubato

fp mp p

Kai ego Ioannes tēn polin tēn hagian

pp

II

pp mp pp mp mf

Ierusalem Kainen eidon! Katabainusan ek tu u– ra– nu a– po tu the– u

mp p mf

This music is copyright protected

Bar.

Org

p 3 pp mp pp

hē toi mas me nen hos nym fen Xe Kos me men en tō andri aules

II I ppp

E

♪ = 176

Bar.

Org

pp mp

and I John saw the ho-ly ci- ty Je-

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Bar.

Org

p mf p mp

ru- sa-lem coming down from God out of heaven from God out of hea ven pre-pared

II: + Cymb (swell closed)

II pp

II/Ped

Bar.

mf mp

as a bride a- dorned for her hus-band the ho ly ci- ty Je- ru-sa-lem

Org

Bar.

+ nasat 1 3/5

Org

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Bar.

Org

F ♩= 60

Bar. Kai eKusa fones megales eK tu thronu leguses i— du he skene tu the—

Org Sub 16' Ged 8'

Bar. -u meta ton an-thropon Kai skenosei met au-ton Kai au-toi la— oi au-tu e-son—

Org I R.fl 8' Sesq 2⅔

Bar. tai Kai au tos ho The-os met au-ton es— tai

Org II: Ged 8' Fl 4'

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Bar.

Org

Bar.

Kai ek sa leipsei pan da kry on ek ton of thal mon au ton Kai ho

Org

Bar.

thanatos uk estai eti u-te penthos ute krau ge u-te ponos uk estai eti ta prota

Org

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Bar.

a pelthan

rit.

Org

(G) ♩=60

mf

Bar.

And I heard a great voice

II Ged 8'

Org

I R.fl.8'

+ Fl.4'

f

rit.

Bar.

a great voice out of heaven saying:

+ Fl 4'

rit.

Org

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H Rubato 1)

Bar. *f* gliss

Be- hold the ta- ber- nac- le of God is with men and he will dwell with

Org *mp* II 2/

II. Ged 8' Cromorne 8'

1) cantillation-like (samaritan) with a twang
2) very short grace notes

Bar.

them and they shall be his peo- ple And God him-self shall be with

Org

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Bar. gliss

them and be their God And God shall wipe a- way all

Org

Bar.

tears from their eyes and there shall be no more death

Org

Bar.

nei- ther sor- row nor cry- ing

Org

This music is copyright protected

Bar.

gliss

nei- ther shall there be a- ny more pain for the for- mer

Org

Bar.

things are passed a— way

Org

I ♩ = 54

Bar.

I pleno

Org

ff

+ Fag 16'

♩ = 40

Bar.

Allargando

Org

+ Trp 8'

NB notes
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J ♩ = 60

Bar. mf Kai

Org I ÷ Trp 8' f II

Bar. f 3

eipen ho kathemenos e pi to throno: i du Kai na poi o panta.

Org ÷ Okt 2' mf ÷ Pr 4'

Bar. mp Kai legei: f 3 grapson ho ti hutoihoi logoi pistoi Kai a-

Org ÷ Pr 8' mp ÷ Fl 4'

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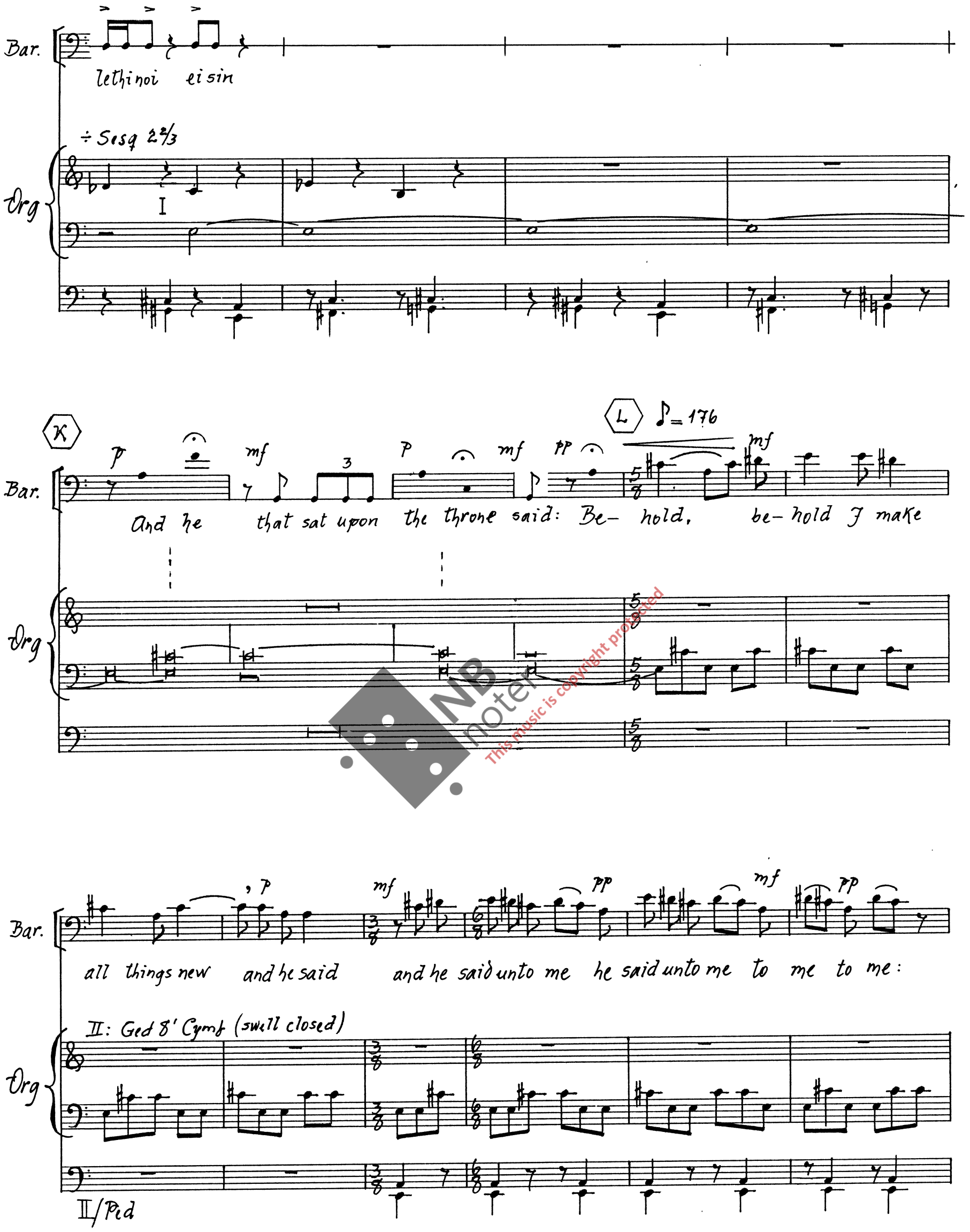

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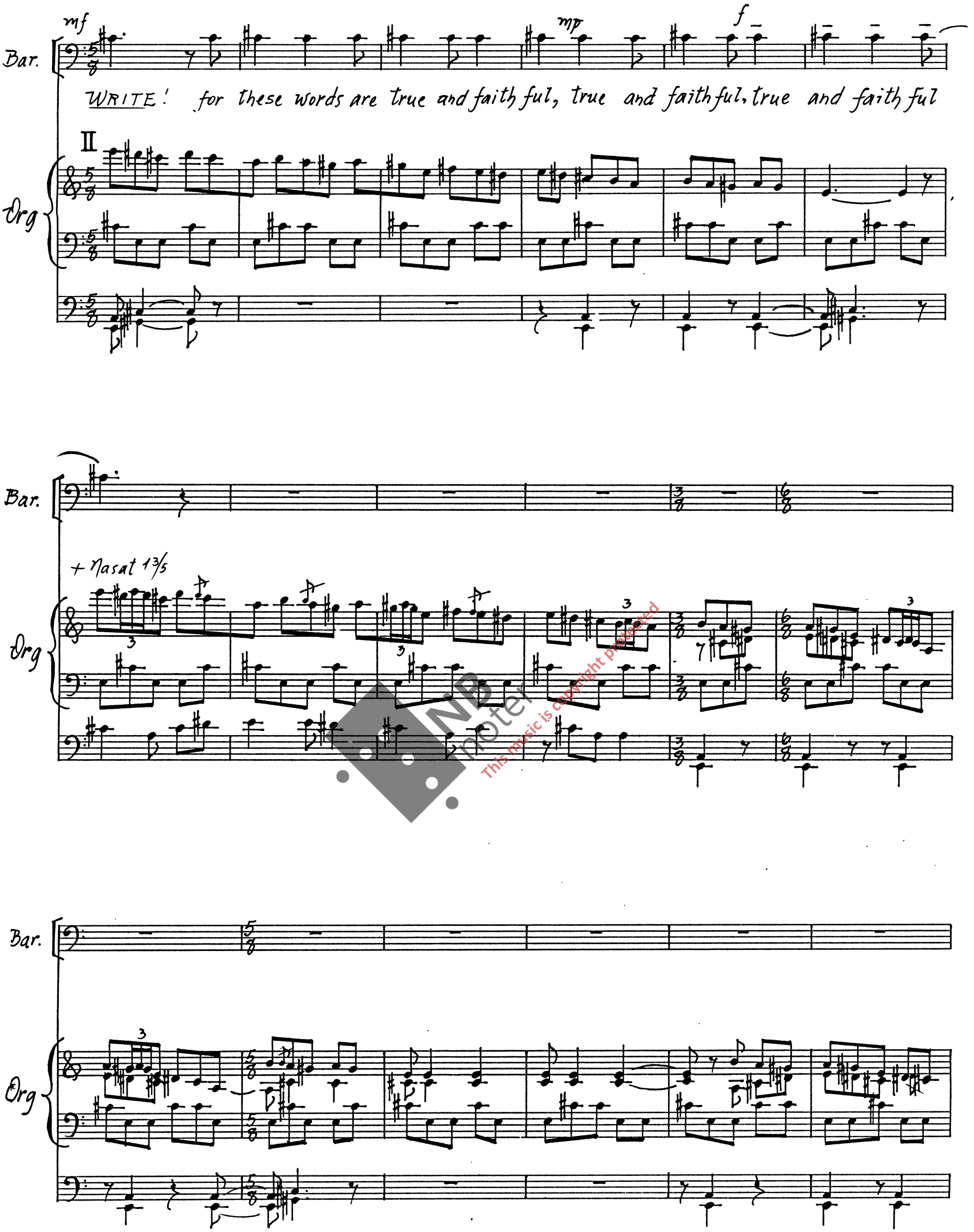

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m ♩= 60

mf

Bar. And he said un to me John:

Org II Ged 8' Gamba 8' Fl 4' I R.fl 8' Sesq 2⅔

II

f

Bar. it is done, it is done

Org II II + Nasat 1⅗ I II

+ I/Ped

f mp f

Bar. I am Alpha and O Alpha and O the begin —

Org

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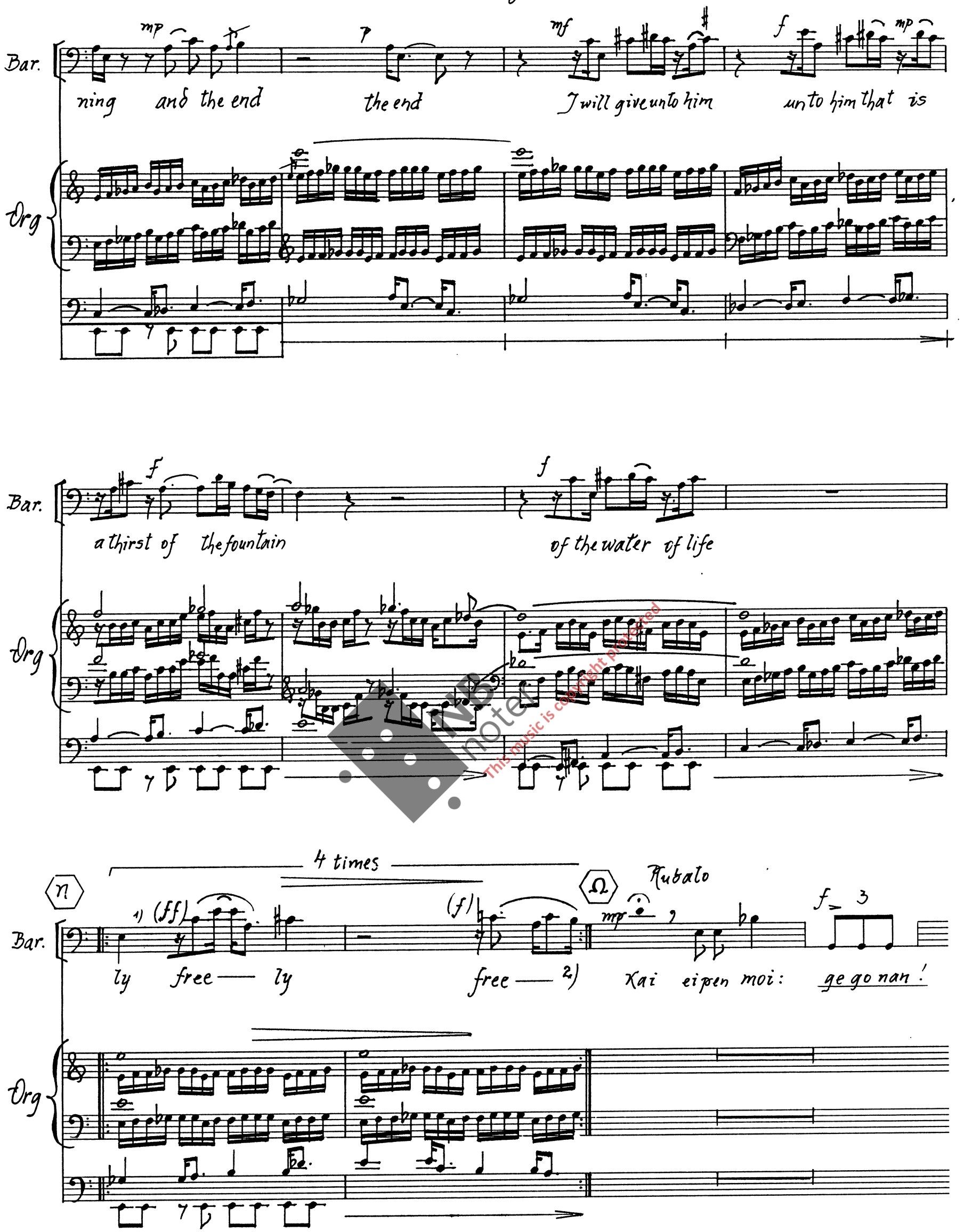

1) 1. volta tacet
2) 4. volta suddenly interrupted. Diminuendo from ff to pp during the 4 times

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Bar. p mf mp mf p f mp

e gô to al fa Kai to ô he ar che Kai to te los

Org II Gd 8, Fl 4' II mp

Bar. mp pp mf 3

e go to dip son ti do so ek— tes pe ges tu hy da tos tes

Org

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Bar. mf p ppp

zo- es do- re- an 1)

Org

1) with an increasingly breathy tone

γεγονεν!

Sofiemyr 14. juni 1987