

Mathias Monrad Møller

Something Larger^(2011/19)

Version for voices and tape

for Solistenensemble PHØNIX16, Timo Kreuser

Set-up:

Speakers, with signal audible to performers as well as audience.

16 performers in three groups, any vocal ranges are possible.

Groups must not be placed separately, but members of the three groups should stand mixed. All performers should form one block.

The piece is performed without a conductor.

Groups:

Group 1: Singing, Voices 1-6

This group provides the tonal core of the piece.

Expressions should be equally joyful, powerful and convinced.

Singers may choose octaves of tones freely. For words with two syllables or more, singers may choose to sing one syllable in one octave and following syllable(s) in another/others. For each response, singers may try out different versions in rehearsal, but must stick with one version throughout a performance. Physical actions (clapping + stamping) are an extension of the overwhelming joy members of this group are feeling.

Group 2: Shouting, Voices 7-12

This group shouts in response to G.W.H. Bush's calls.

Expressions should be convinced and powerful and can range from exultant to militant. Physical actions (clapping + stamping) are extensions of the vocal expression.

Group 3: Imitating/Percussion, Voices 13-16

This group imitates G.H.W. Bush. Reply to Bush's calls with an imitation that is as close to the original call as possible. Each singer of this group plays a portable percussion instrument of their own choice (e.g. rattle, small drum, tambourine, flexatone, vibra-slap etc). Maintain a distinction between the tone of vocal actions (imitation of Bush) and the tone of the energetic physical actions (stamping + percussion instrument).

NB: The piece can also be performed with fewer singers, as few as eight. Parts required for this version are voices 1-3, 7-9, 13 and 14.

For a more tonal result, parts of group 1 can be doubled, but never more than two performers per part. There should always be at least three performers of group 2, and two performers of group 3. For ensembles larger than 16 singers, parts should be dispersed proportionally.

Various instruments can be added, too; for parts please inquire.

How to play this piece:

Performers react to the calls of President G.H.W. Bush as quickly and energetically as possible. Individual responses are given as written in each singer's score. Hold longer notes until the next call, and keep the energy up (dotted crescendi). When a new call occurs, shift to the new response as quickly as possible. You can't make any mistakes. Keep up positive and athletic energy. The piece is loud.

Rehearsals:

Decide in advance how parts are distributed. The distribution of the group 1 scores plays an especially defining role for the tonal sound of the final performance.

The piece mustn't be rehearsed with tape too much, in order to keep a spontaneous energy. However, it is crucial that each performer know and is able to give their responses to Bush's calls instantly. Each response must come as quickly as possible. Rehearse slowly without tape in the beginning. It is necessary that singers of group 1 provide a stable harmonic basis throughout the piece. Keep up high energy all the way throughout. Have fun.

Mathias Monrad Møller,
Victoria, July 2019