

Steve Reich



Steve Reich Photo: Alice Arnold/Nonesuch

CHORAL

You Are (Variations)

2004

25 min

for voices and large ensemble

Text: Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, Psalm 16, Wittgenstein, The Talmud (E, Heb)

3S.1A.2T*

2.1.corA.3.0-0.0.0-perc(4):2mar/2vib-4pft-strings (3.3.3.3.1 players or more**)

All instruments and singers are amplified. Strings should use clip-on contact microphones if possible.

*1 or 3 to a part (6 or 18 singers). Voices must be amplified.

** no amplification needed if more than 3 players to a part

"You Are is an exceptional score... what is so impressive is the way Reich has written through the pithy texts to achieve music that feels as if we are watching (hearing) music bloom to fill not just the room but the consciousness. Part of this is Reich's brilliant and original variation technique... The music gets richer and richer. At the same time the text...has the quality of an injection of wisdom. Gradually it infects awareness, words, tones, rhythms and meanings. Then there is the sheer visceral sensation of compelling music, insistent in its rhythms, building complexities... a masterpiece."

Los Angeles Times

"You Are (Variations) incorporates "aphoristic truisms" from ancient Hebrew and more recent Wittgenstein... Like a jewel examined in changing light, the text rises and falls through the instrumental texture... The marvel of the work is the newness of its expression, the fresh sounds and messages Reich has found within materials that are already known aspects of his musical language... He continues to find new uses for his 'classic' minimalist techniques, as You Are (Variations) handsomely suggests."

Los Angeles Weekly

World Premiere: 24 Oct 2004

Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles, California, USA

Grant Gershon; Los Angeles Master Chorale