

S T E P H E N   B A R K E R

# Recevez, Seigneur

*from*

A Mass on the World



Recevez, Seigneur, cette Hostie totale que la Création, mue par votre attrait, vous présente à l'aube nouvelle.

Ce pain, notre effort, il n'est de lui-même, je le sais, qu'une désagrégation immense. Ce vin, notre douleur, il n'est encore, hélas! qu'un dissolvant breuvage. Mais au fond de cette masse informe, vous avez mis un irrésistible et sanctifiant désir qui nous fait tous crier, depuis l'impie jusqu'au fidèle:

“Seigneur, faites-nous un”.

PIERRE TEILHARD DE CHARDIN, S.J  
Ordos Desert, China  
1923

*Receive, O Lord, this all-embracing Host which Creation, drawn to you, offers at this new dawn.*

*This bread, our toil, is of itself, I know, but an immense fragmentation; this wine, our pain, is no more, alas, than a transitory drink. Yet in the heart of this formless mass, you have placed an irresistible and sanctifying desire which makes us all cry out, believer and unbeliever alike.*

“Lord, make us one”.

Pere Teilhard de Chardin was a French Jesuit who, in 1914, spent three months studying at the Jesuit College in Canterbury, within sight of St Stephen's Church. His time in Canterbury was cut short by the outbreak of the First World War when he returned to France to serve as a stretcher-bearer.

### Performance Notes

Care should be taken with dynamics in this piece; the opening in particular should be sung softly and not rushed. In the second half of the piece, there should be a growing sense of intensity through increased dynamics and *some* rubato in the tempo, culminating in a real sense of ‘crying out’ at the end.

I'd like to particularly thank teachers in the languages department of The Harvey Grammar School for their assistance in setting the French text, and the ever-patient St Stephen's Church Choir who sang through early drafts and prepared so carefully the first public performance.

STEPHEN BARKER  
Fordwich, Canterbury, UK  
January, 2020

*Recevez, Seigneur* from *A Mass on the World* was first performed at St Stephen's Church, Canterbury, on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2020, at a service of prayer bringing together Christians from different denominations across Canterbury.

For Peter Toon

**Recevez, Seigneur**

from

A Mass on the World

PIERRE TEILHARD DE CHARDIN, S.J.  
(1881–1955)STEPHEN BARKER  
(b. 1977)Slowly, and with tenderness  $\text{♩} = 56$ *pp*

Soprano  
Alto

Re - ce - vez, Seig - neur, cette Host - ie to -

Tenor  
Bass

*pp*

4

que la cré - a - - tion,

- tale que la cré - a - - tion, mue par vo - tre at - trait, vous pré -

cré - a - - tion,

que la cré - a - - tion,

8

-sen - te à l'aube nou - velle. Ce pain, no - tre ef - fort, il

12

n'est de lui-même, je le sais, qu'une dé -

16

-sa-gré-ga-tion immense. Ce vin,

20

hé-las! qu'un dis-sol-vant  
no-tre dou-leur, il n'est en-core, hé-las! qu'un dis-sol-vant

24

breu-vage. Mais au fond de cette masse in-forme,

28 *cresc. poco a poco* *with growing intensity*

vous a - vez mis un ir - ré - sis - ti - ble et sanc - ti - fi - ant dé -

*cresc. poco a poco*

32 *f* *ff* *f*

- sir qui nous fait tous cri - er, de - puis l'im - pie jus -

*f* *ff* *f*

35 *ff*

- qu'au fi - dèle: "Seign - eur, faites - nous un".

*ff*

**PREVIEW**

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