

Full Score (Transposed)

Music in the Air

text by Mary Church Terrell (1863–1954)

for chorus (SSATB) and orchestra

Jake Berran

(2024)



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INSTRUMENTATION

2 Flutes (2=picc.)
2 Oboes (2=eng. hn.)
2 Clarinets in B \flat (2=b. cl.)
2 Bassoons
4 Horns in F
2 Trumpets in C
3 Trombones
1 Tuba
Timpani
Percussion 1 (glock., shared sus. cym.)
Percussion 2 (cl. cym., shared sus. cym.)
Soprano 1
Soprano 2
Alto
Tenor
Bass
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Contrabass

PROGRAM NOTES

Mary Church Terrell (1863–1954) is known best for her lifelong civil rights activism, including her role in founding the National Association of Colored Women in 1896. She was also one of the first Black women to earn a bachelor's degree, both in the U.S. as a whole and at Oberlin College, where she majored in classics and was nominated as class poet her freshman year (in her junior year, she lost this election to a man who she later wrote "had never written a poem in his life...and had never exhibited any talent in that direction"). During this period of her life, Terrell wrote *Music in the air*, a metrical poem that may have also been song lyrics (one line contains a note to "repeat soft"). In three stanzas, the poem simultaneously traces the arc from morning to night and that from birth to death, calling attention to the mystical, "musical" beauty of human life and nature. To capture this sense of awe, I used chord progressions without a clear major or minor quality and found much of the harmony on a spectrum of suspensions from sparse to dense. A particular challenge in this piece was to represent the refrain "music in the air" in ways beyond the fact that it's a true statement when sung by the choir. For instance, at the beginning, layers of "music" are slowly peeled back to reveal the melody (in the "air") to be sung. *Music in the Air* was composed for the Lorain County Bicentennial celebration on May 24, 2024.

Duration: ca. 7 minutes. If mm. 61–93 are cut, the piece is 5 minutes. In this case, the soprano notes in mm. 94–95 should be deleted.

TEXT

Music in the Air
Mary Church Terrell

1. There's music in the air.
When the infant's morn is nigh
And faint its blush is seen,
On the bright and laughing sky.
Many a harps extatic sound,
With its thrill of joy profound,
While we list enchanted there,
(To the music in the air.) (*repeat soft*)

2. There's music in the air
When the noontide's sultry beam
Reflects a golden light,
On the distant mountain stream.
When beneath some grateful shade,
Sorrow's aching head is laid
Sweetly to the spirit there
Comes the music in the air.

3. There's music in the air
When the twilight's gentle sigh,
Is lost on evening's breast,
As its pensive beauties die.
Then O Then, the loved ones gone,
Wake the pure celestial song,
Angel voices greet us there
In the music in the air.

Source: Library of Congress

PERFORMANCE NOTES

For the choir:

- In m. 49 and m. 55, the "t" of *list* should be pronounced. (The word *listen* clarifies the meaning and is not found in the source text.)
- The direction to "vib(rato) wider" (first in mm. 57–59) should only be followed to the extent that is healthy.
- "Vib. norm." cancels this direction.
- Starting at rehearsal L, the pronunciation of the vowel in "the" is specified in parentheses.

For the orchestra:

- "Vib. wider" means wider vibrato.
- "Vib. norm." cancels this direction.

Music in the Air

for chorus and orchestra

Mary Church Terrell (1863–1954)
(written ca. 1880–1884)

Jake Berran (b. 2002)
(composed 2024)

Flute 1.2 *pp*

Oboe 1/2 *p solo*

Clarinet in Bb 1/2 *mp* *mf* *mp*

Bassoon 1.2

Horn in F 1.2/3.4 *p*

Trumpet in C 1.2 *p*

Trombone 1.2.3

Tuba *p*

Timpani

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto *p* There's

Tenor

Bass

Violin I *pp*

Violin II *pp*

Viola *pp* *p* *pp*

Cello *pp*

Contrabass *mf* *p*

1.2. a 2

1.2.

1.

7

7

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

A

Fl. 1 *pp* *p* *p* *mf* *p*

Fl. 2 *p* *pp* *p* *mf* *mf* *p*

Ob. 1/2 *mf solo* 1. 7 *p*

Cl. in Bb 1/2 1.

Bsn. 1/2

Hn in F 1.2 3.4

Tpt in C 1.2

Tbn. 1.2.3

Tba

Timp. *pp* *p* same drum

Perc. 1 *mp* *p* Suspended Cymbal *mp*

Perc. 2

S1 *p* *p* air When the

S2 *p* *p* air When the

A *mf* *pp* mu - sic, mu - sic, there's mu - sic in the air When the

T

B

Vln I *p* *mf* *pp* sul A *pp* under oboe

Vln II *p* *pp* under oboe

Vla *pp* *mp* *pp* *p* *pp* under oboe

Vc. *p* *pizz.* *mf*

Cb. *p* *pizz.* *mf*

10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

C

with sopranos

Fl. 1.2: *mf* (measures 31-32), *mf* (measure 32)

Ob. 1.2: *pp* (measure 28), *mf* (measure 29), *mf* (measures 31-32), *mf* (measure 32)

Cl. in Bb 1: *p* (measure 29), *pp* (measure 30), *mp* (measure 31), *p* (measure 32)

Cl. in Bb 2: *p* (measure 29), *pp* (measure 30), *mp* (measure 31), *p* (measure 32)

Bsn 1: *p* (measure 28), *mf* (measure 29), *mf* (measures 31-32)

Bsn 2: *p* (measure 28), *mf* (measure 29), *mp* (measures 31-32)

Hn in F 1.2 3.4: -

Tpt in C 1.2: -

Tbn. 1.2.3: -

Tba: -

Timp.: *mf* (measure 28)

Perc. 1: -

Perc. 2: -

S1: *mf* (measures 31-32)

S2: *mf* (measures 31-32)

A: *p* (measure 29), *mp* (measure 30), *mf* (measures 31-32)

T: *p* (measure 29), *mp* (measures 30-32)

B: *mf* (measures 31-32)

Vln I: *ppp* (measure 28), *mf* (measure 29), *pp sub.* (measure 30), *p* (measure 31), *mf* (measure 32)

Vln II: *ppp* (measure 28), *mf* (measure 29), *pp sub.* (measure 30), *p* (measure 31), *mf* (measure 32)

Vla: *pp* (measure 30), *mp* (measures 31-32)

Vc.: *p* (measure 29), *pp* (measure 30), *mp* (measures 31-32)

Cb.: -

28 *p* 29 30 31 32



accel. 5

Fl. 1
2

Ob. 1
2

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

Hn in F 1.2

Hn in F 3.4

Tpt in C 1.2

Tbn. 1.2

Tbn. 3

Tba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Glock.

S1
bright and laugh - ing laugh - ing sky

S2
bright and laugh - ing laugh - ing sky

A
laugh - ing laugh - ing bright and laugh - ing sky

T
bright laugh - ing bright laugh - ing laugh - ing sky bright and laugh - ing sky

B
on the bright on the bright bright and laugh - ing sky

Vln I
arco
p

Vln II
arco
p

Vla
pizz.
mf

Vc.
pizz.
mf

Cb.
arco
p

33 mp 34 f 35 36

Fl. 1 2

Ob. 1 2

Cl. in Bb 1 2

Bsn 1 2

Hn in F 1 2

Hn in F 3 4

Tpt in C 1 2

Tbn. 1 2

Tbn. 3

Tba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

S1

S2

A

T

B

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Cb.

Ma - ny a harps' ex - ta - tic sound with the thrill the thrill of joy

Ma - ny a harps' ex - ta - tic sound with the thrill the thrill of the thrill of

Ma - ny a harps' ex - ta - tic sound with the thrill the thrill of the thrill of

Ma - ny a harps' ex - ta - tic sound with the thrill, thrill of joy

Ma - ny a harps' ex - ta - tic sound with the thrill, thrill of joy

mf *mf sempre* *mf* *f* *mf* *p*

37 38 39 40 41

Fl. 1 $(\text{♩} = 100)$ $(\text{♩} = 66)$ E 7
 Fl. 2
 Ob. 1/2
 Cl. in Bb 1/2
 Bsn 1/2 *f*
 Hn in F 1/2 *a 2* *mf* *f* *mf* *p*
 Hn in F 3/4 *a 2* *mf* *f* *mf* *p*
 Tpt in C 1/2 *mf* *mf*
 Tbn. 1/2 *p* *mf* *p* *p* *mf* *mf* *p*
 Tbn. 3 *p* *mf* *p* *p* *mf* *mf* *p*
 Tba *p* *mf* *p* *p* *mf* *mf* *p*
 Timp.
 Perc. 1 Glockenspiel *p*
 Perc. 2
 S1 pro - found, pro - found, pro - found as we list (t)
 S2 joy pro - found, pro - found, pro - found as we list (t)
 A joy pro - found, pro - found, pro - found as we list (t)
 T pro - found, pro - found, pro - found as we list (t)
 B pro - found, pro - found as we list (t) *pizz.*
 Vln I *mf* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *p*
 Vln II *mf* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *pp*
 Vla *mf* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *pp* *pizz.*
 Vc. *f* *p* *arco* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*
 Cb. *f* *p* *arco* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49

Fl. 1.2
 Ob. 1.2
 Cl. in Bb 1
 Cl. in Bb 2
 Bsn 1.2

Hn in F 1.2
 Hn in F 3.4
 Tpt in C 1.2
 Tbn. 1.2.3
 Tba

Timp.
 Perc. 1
 Perc. 2

S1
 S2
 A
 T
 B

pp vib. norm. *p*
 en - chan - - ted there to the mu - sic in the air
pp vib. norm. *p*
 en - chan - - ted there Ooh
pp vib. norm.
 en - chan - - ted there
pp vib. norm.
 en - chan - - ted there
pp vib. norm.
 en - chan - - ted there

Vln I
 Vln II
 Vla
 Vc.
 Cb.

arco
pp
 arco 6 6 6 6
pp
pp
pp

Fl. 1.2 *mf*

Ob. 1 *p*

Ob. 2 *p*

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

Bsn 1 *p* *mf* *p*

Bsn 2 *p* *mf* *p*

Hn in F 1.2 *p* *mf*

Hn in F 3.4

Tpt in C 1 2 *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Tbn. 1.2.3 *mf*

Tba *mf*

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

S1 *mf* *fp* *mp*

S2 *mf* *fp* *mp*

A *mf* *fp* *mp*

T *mf*

B *mf*

Vln I *mf*

Vln II *p* *mf*

Vla *p* *mf*

Vc. *p* *mf*

Cb. *f* *pizz.*

There's mu - sic in the air when

There's mu - sic in the air when

There's mu - sic in the air when

when the noon - tide, when the

when the noon - tide, when the

64 65 66 67 68

Fl. 1 *mf* *tr*

Fl. 2 *mf* *tr*

Ob. 1 *mf* *tr*

Ob. 2 *mf* *tr*

Cl. in Bb 1/2 *p* *mf*

Bsn 1 *f* *p* *mf* *p sub.*

Bsn 2 *f*

Hn in F 1.2 *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Hn in F 3.4

Tpt in C 1/2 *p* *mf* *ff* *harmon mute stem in*

Tbn. 1.2/3

Tba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

S1 *mf* *p* *mf*

S2 *p* *mf*

A *mf* *p*

T *p*

B *p*

Vln I *p* *mf* *p* *ord.* *p* *mf* *p sub.*

Vln II *p* *mf* *p* *ord. 3* *p* *mf* *p*

Vla *p* *mf* *p* *ord.* *p*

Vc. *p* *mf* *p* *ord.* *p*

Cb. *p* *mf* *p* *ord.* *p*

69 70 71 72 73 74

Fl. 1 *p* *mf* *fp* *mf* *ff*

Fl. 2 *p* *fp* *mf* *ff*

Ob. 1 *fp* *mf* *ff*

Ob. 2 *fp* *f* to Eng. Hn!

Cl. in Bb 1 *mf* *p* *f* *ff*

Cl. in Bb 2 *mf* *p* *f* *ff*

Bsn 1 *p* *f*

Bsn 2 *p* *f*

Hn in F 1.2 *open* *mf*

Hn in F 3.4 *a 2 open* *p* *f*

Tpt in C 1.2

Tbn. 1.2/3

Tba

Timp.

Perc. 1 Glock. *f* Suspended Cymbal *p* *mf*

Perc. 2 Clash Cymbal *mf* Clash Cymbals

S1 *p* *f*
 reflects a golden light on the distant mountain stream.

S2 *p* *f*
 reflects a golden light on the distant mountain stream.

A *mf* *p* *f*
 re - flects a gol - den light on the dis - tant moun - tain stream.

T *mp* *p* *f*
 re - - - - flects a light on the dis - tant moun - tain stream.

B *mp* *p* *f*
 re - - - - flects a light on the dis - tant moun - tain stream.

Vln I *f*

Vln II *f*

Vla

Vc.

Cb. *ord.* *p* *f*

75 76 77 78

H $\text{♩} = 54$

Fl. 1.2

Ob. 1

Eng. Hn

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

Hn in F 1.2

Hn in F 3.4

Tpt in C 1.2

Tbn. 1.2
3

Tba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

S1

S2

A

T

B

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Cb.

Eng. Hn *mf* *mp* *p* *mp > p* *mp > p* *mf > p*

Cl. in Bb 1 *p* *mf > p*

B. Cl.

Bsn 1 *f* *p & va if necessary*

Bsn 2 *f* *p & va if necessary*

Hn in F 1.2 *pp*

Hn in F 3.4 *a2* *pp*

Tbn. 1.2
3 *open* *f* *p & va if necessary*

Tba *p*

Timp. *f*

S2 *mf* *mp* *p* *mp > p* *mp* *mf > p*

A *mf* *mp* *p* *mp > p* *mp* *mf > p*

T *mf* *mp* *p* *mp > p* *mp* *mf > p*

B *mf* *mp* *p* *mp > p* *mp* *mf > p*

(only lower note if drums are limited)

79 80 81 82 83 84 85

Fl. 1.2
Ob. 1
Eng. Hn
Cl. in Bb 1
B. Cl.
Bsn 1
Bsn 2
Hn in F 1.2
Hn in F 3.4
Tpt in C 1.2
Tbn. 1.2
Tba
Timp.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
S1
S2
A
T
B
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Cb.

86 87 88 89 90 91 92

laid, laid, laid, laid
sweet - ly, sweet - ly, sweet - ly, sweet - ly
spi - rit there, there, there

pp, *ppp*, *p*, *arco*

I

p

Fl. 1
2

Ob. 1

Eng. Hn

Cl. in Bb 1

B. Cl.

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

Hn in F 1.2

Hn in F 3.4

Tpt in C 1.2

Tbn. 1.2
3

Tba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Glock.

S1

S2

A

T

B

p

There's mu - sic in the air when the twi - light, the twi - light's gen - tle sigh is

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Cb.

pp \rightarrow *mp*

p

sul C

Fl. 1
2

Ob. 1

Eng. Hn

Cl. in B \flat 1

B. Cl.

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

Hn in F 1.2

Hn in F 3.4

Tpt in C 1.2

Tbn. 1.2
3

Tba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

S1

S2

A

T
lost, lost on eve - ning's breast as its pen - sive, pen - sive beau - ties_ die.

B
lost, lost on eve - ning's breast as its pen - sive, pen - sive beau - ties_ die.

Vln I
pp *mp* *pp* *p* *pp*

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Cb.

109 110 111 112 113 114 115

Fl. 1 2 *vib. wider* *pp*

Ob. 1 *p*

Eng. Hn

Cl. in Bb 1

B. Cl.

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

Hn in F 1.2

Hn in F 3.4

Tpt in C 1.2

Tbn. 1.2 3

Tba

Timp.

Perc. 1 *softer mallets, like a celesta* *ppp* *pp*

Perc. 2

S1 *p*
Then O Then the

S2 *p*
Then O Then the

A *p* *vib. wider*
Then, *vib. norm.*
Then O Then the

T *p* *vib. wider*
Then, *vib. norm.*
Then O Then the

B *p* *vib. wider*
Then, *vib. norm.*
Then O Then the

Vln I *vib. wider* *p* *vib. norm.*

Vln II *vib. wider* *p* *vib. norm.*

Vla *vib. wider* *p* *vib. norm.*

Vc. *vib. wider* *p* *vib. norm.*

Cb. *vib. wider* *p* *vib. norm.*

116 117 118 119 120 121

K

Fl. 1 2 *ff* *p*

Ob. 1 2 *ff* *p*

Cl. in Bb 1 2 *ff* *p* *mf*

Bsn 1 2 *f* *mf*

Hn in F 1.2

Hn in F 3.4

Tpt in C 1 2

Tbn. 1.2.3

Tba

Timp.

Perc. 1 *ff*

Perc. 2

S1 *ff* *f* *mf* *mp*
 An - gel voi - ces, an - gel voi - ces greet us there, voi - ces greet, greet,

S2 *ff* *f* *mf* *mp*
 An - gel voi - ces, an - gel voi - ces greet us, greet us, voi - ces greet, greet,

A *ff* *f* *mf* *mp*
 An - gel voi - ces, an - gel voi - ces greet us there, voi - ces greet, greet,

T *ff* *f* *mf* *mp*
 An - gel voi - ces, voi - ces greet voi - ces greet, greet,

B *ff* *f* *mf* *mp*
 An - gel voi - ces, greet, voi - ces greet, greet,

Vln I *mf* *mp*

Vln II *mf* *mp* *p*

Vla *ff* *mf* *mp*

Vc. *ff* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Cb. *mf* *mp*

137 138 139 140 *mf* 141 142 *mp* 143 144

Fl. 1 2

Ob. 1 2

Cl. in Bb 1 2

Bsn 1 2

Hn in F 1.2

Hn in F 3.4

Tpt in C 1 2

Tbn. 1.2.3

Tba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

S1

S2

A

T

B

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Cb.

greet us there. Mu - sic in the(e)

greet us there. Mu - sic in the(e)

greet us there. Mu - sic in the(e)

greet us. In the mu - sic, in the(uh)

greet us. In the mu - sic, in the(uh)

145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153

Fl. 1 2

Ob. 1 2

Cl. in Bb 1 2

Bsn. 1 2

Hn in F 1 2

Hn in F 3 4

Tpt in C 1 2

Tbn. 1 2 3

Tba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

S1

S2

A

T

B

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Cb.

Mu - sic in the(e) the(e) In the air.

Mu - sic in the(e) the(e) In the air.

Mu - sic in the(e) the(e) In the air.

Mu - sic in the(e) in In the air.

Mu - sic in the(e) in In the air.

p *mf* *p*

p *mf* *p*

p *mf* *p*

p *mf* *p*

p *mf* *p*

p *mf* *p*

f

f

p

1. *p*

pp *mp*

p 1. open

154 155 156 157 158 159 160

Fl. 1 *mp* *mf* *pp* *solo* *p* *pp* **Picc.** *solo* *p*

Fl. 2 *mp* *mf* *pp* *p*

Ob. 1/2

Cl. in Bb 1.2 *pp* *pp* *mf* *pp* 1. *p* 4 4 4

Bsn 1.2

Hn in F 1.2 2. *p*

Hn in F 3.4

Tpt in C 1/2 1. *p*

Tbn. 1 *p*

Tbn. 2 *p* *f*

Tbn. 3 *p* *f*

Tba *p* *f*

Timp.

Perc. 1 **Glock.** *p* *mf* 3 3

Perc. 2 **Suspended Cymbal** w/ sticks (to hear each attack brightly) **Suspended Cymbal** *p* *mf* *p*

S1 *f* *pp* air

S2 *f* *pp* air

A *f*

T *f*

B *f*

Vln I

Vln II

Vla *pizz.* *f*

Vc. *p* *f* *pizz.*

Cb. *f* *pizz.*

161 162 163 164 165 166