

The phoenix rests in her golden egg

Lyrics by Chris Brew

Music by Sheena Phillips

SATB a cappella

The phoenix is a bird who rests in golden yolk, rises in flame, soars, sings, dies and returns to the egg in a never-ending cycle. Here's a musical representation of that story.

I have encoded the words 'phoenix', 'gold', 'warm', 'eternal', 'molten' and 'fire' into the piece using the notes obtained by extending the diatonic scale up an imaginary keyboard beyond the usual *a* through *g*. For example, 'phoenix' comes out as *b a a e g b c* and is used for the opening line of the poem. The notes for 'gold' (*g a e d*) in various permutations recur throughout the piece.

duration 3:00

perusal score – not for rehearsal or performance

all rights reserved

copyright © Sheena Phillips and Chris Brew 2018

The phoenix rests in her golden egg

Warm in your egg your heart still beats
As molten gold enfolds your dreams.
Now you rest, yet soon you'll stir
And soar above in blaze of fire.

Your wings, no more in golden yolk embalmed,
Will rise and lift away, eternal bird.
Your mortal song, at end of life outpoured,
Will rise and melt away, eternal bird.
And warm in your egg you'll rest and dream again.

Chris Brew

Lyrics © copyright Chris Brew 2018 and used with permission

Notation and performance instructions

Box and line notation – repeat the material in the box for the duration of the line

Rest in brackets (bars 27 and 48) – a rest of indeterminate length

Independence (bars 27 and 48) – each singer sings independently, creating a haze of overlapping phrases

X – cancels the time signature

Memorisation

This might help: the rhythmic pattern in bars 1 – 5 is repeated in bars 6 – 10 (offset by one beat for the tenors), bars 11 – 14 (offset by one beat for the basses too) and bars 15 – 19.

The phoenix rests in her golden egg

Chris Brew

Sheena Phillips

Lento dolcissimo (♩ = c. 66)

pp break briefly between 'mm's

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

6

S

A

T

B

11

S

A

T

B

The phoenix rests in her golden egg

15

S oh, oh, oh, oh, ah, oh,

A molt - en gold en - folds your dreams.

T molt - en gold en - folds your dreams.

B div. molt - en gold en - folds your dreams.

molto accel.

20

S *p* ah, *mf* but soon you'll stir and

A *p* Now you rest, soon you'll

T *p* Now you rest, but soon you'll stir, and

B *p* Now you rest, but soon you'll stir and

con moto (♩ = c. 108)

senza misura

about 6 secs.

start independently, sing twice, in tempo, and hold last note

24

S *f* blaze of fire. *f* fi - re!

A *f* blaze of fire. *f* fi - re.

T *f* blaze of fire. *f* fi - re.

B *f* blaze of fire. *f* blaze of fi - re,

The phoenix rests in her golden egg

sempre con moto

30 (♩ = c. 108)

p *mf*

S Your wings, Your wings will rise,

p *mf* *mp* *mf*

A Your wings Your wings will rise

f *div.*

T Your wings, no more in gold - en yolk em - balmed, will rise

p *mf*

B Your wings will rise, your wings will

36

f *mf dolce*

S your wings will rise and lift a - way, your mor - tal song, at end of

mf dolce

A and lift a - way, Your song,

f

T and lift a - way,

f

B rise and lift a - way,

42

f *mp* *f* *mf*

S life out - poured, will rise, will rise,

mp *f* *mf*

A out - poured, will rise, will rise,

mp *f* *mf*

T will rise, will rise,

mp *f* *mf*

B will rise, will rise,

The phoenix rests in her golden egg

senza misura

about 12 secs.

cue A cue T cue B cue S

47

S *mf* and melt a - way, *pp*

A *f* *mf* and melt a - way, *pp*

T *f* *mf* and melt a - way, *pp*

B *f* *mf* and melt a - way, *pp*

start independently, sing twice, freely, and hold last note

Slower (♩ = c. 90)

55

S *mp* E - ter - nal bird, you'll rest and mm...

S *mp* E - ter - nal bird, you'll rest and mm...

A *mp* E - ter - nal bird, you'll rest and mm...

A *mp* E - ter - nal bird, you'll rest and mm...

T *mp* E - ter - nal bird, ah, mm...

T *mp* E - ter - nal bird, ah, mm...

B *mf dolce* Then warm in your egg you'll rest and dream a -

61 *pp* *mp* *pp*

S e - ter - nal bird, you'll rest and mm...

S *pp* *mp* *pp*

S e - ter - nal bird, you'll rest and mm...

A *pp* *mp* *pp*

A e - ter - nal bird, you'll rest and mm...

A *pp* *mp* *pp*

A e - ter - nal bird, you'll rest and mm...

T *pp* *mp* *pp*

T e - ter - nal bird, ah, mm...

T *pp* *mp* *pp*

T e - ter - nal bird, ah, mm...

B *p* *mp*

B gain, you'll

66 *mp* *pp*

S e - ter - nal bird.

A *mp* *pp*

A e - ter - nal bird, mm, mm, mm...

T *mp* *pp*

T e - ter - nal bird, mm, mm, mm...

B *pp*

B rest and dream a - gain.