

Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

Locus iste, SATB, a cappella

Bruckner is mostly known today for his monumental symphonies — sculptures in sound —but he also wrote much sacred music including eight masses and many settings of motets and other short pieces.

Locus iste is an a cappella setting of a motet intended to celebrate the anniversary of the dedication of a church. It was written in 1869 for the dedication of a new chapel in the cathedral of Linz in Austria, near where Bruckner was born.

It has become one of the most popular pieces in the choral repertoire.

A writer in the Gramophone has described it as “sublime and deceptively difficult”. So be warned!

Sheet music in several editions is available free at cpdl.org, This is a good clear one:

<https://www.cpd.org/wiki/images/0/0f/LocusIste4ptsBruckner.pdf>

Channel allocation

Channel	Part	Instrument
1	Soprano	Oboe
2	---	---
3	Alto	Cor anglais (English Horn)
4	---	---
5	Tenor	Tenor Sax
6	---	---
7	Bass	Clarinet
8	---	---
9	---	---
10	Tempo Track	---
11	---	---
12	---	---
13	---	---
14	---	---
15	Accompaniment (just for initial chord)	Piano
16	---	--

With a good midi player the user can bring up or down the level of each channel in order to emphasise a particular vocal line.

Channel 10 is where the tempo markings are stored and is also where metronome clicks are located. The user should not have to make any changes to this channel.

Dynamics

In the midi files all parts have the same constant dynamic level. This is because a singer using the files to learn a part will generally require that part to be emphasised, that is, to be louder than the others. This can be done with a good midi player. It would be difficult to achieve appropriate performance dynamic variations as well.

Tempi

The midi file has a tempo close to that of most recordings of this piece. The file maintains a strict tempo throughout, though there is scope for some variation at the discretion of the conductor, and a *rit.* is often observed over the last four bars.

Bar numbers

The midi file incorporates bar numbers so if your midi player has a bar indicator you can easily find your way round the score to focus on particular passages.

Available Recordings

As you might expect there are many recordings of this on YouTube, including this one by The Sixteen:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUGBoR__nnA

And this slightly freer one by the Netherlands Chamber Choir.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TbOqM_lsoU

Text and Translation

Latin	English
Locus iste a Deo factus est, inaestimabile sacramentum, irreprehensibilis est.	This place was made by God, A priceless sacrament. It is without reproach.