

Richard Felciano

Pentecost Sunday

PERFORMANCE NOTES 2013

Scripture's description of the event of PENTECOST is little short of terrifying. A "mighty wind" is not a gentle, soothing breeze and its effect on those who experienced it was anything but soothing; it was transformative, not physically but intellectually.

High quality speakers should be used, so that the sound level approaches that necessary to fill the church, while balancing the organ and voices, of course. The acoustics of the building can also play a role and may give you some ideas.

The "breathy whisper" which is mentioned should be made by each performer forcing air through the half-closed mouth. The friction between the force of the air and the hard surfaces (roof, etc.) of the mouth during vowel enunciation renders the vowel clearly and fits beautifully with the white sound (wind) emanating from the electronic track. Mainly remember to make the breathy whisper LOUD by forcing the air against the mouth's hard surfaces (mainly the roof).

At 35" a crowd is simulated. If you simply follow the instructions, it will happen.

Measured glissandi (e.g. as at 1'23") can be taught by having the choir first sing the pitches without the glissandi but at the indicated tempo. This establishes the correct beginning and end pitches at the correct time. Once the singers have a secure sense of that, it should be relatively easy to do the same, yet INCORPORATE the measured glissandi.

NB: glissandi should move evenly through the allotted duration (not appear only at the duration's end, as in portamento).