

# Vox

Text: Matthew 3.3, Mark 1.3, Luke 3.4  
similar to Isaiah 40.3 and John 1.22

Dennis Desormier

$\text{♩} \approx 66$ . *Very precisely, avoiding vibrato except for expression, including expansion of long notes*

S1 *p* Vox Vox Vox Vox Vox

S2 *p* Vox Vox Vox Vox

A1 *p* Vox Vox Vox

A2 *p* Vox Vox

T1 *p* Vox Vox

T2 *p* Vox

B1 Vox

B2

**Translation:** "A voice... A voice cries out from the wilderness... Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths."

**Background:** The text is strongly associated with the Christian season of Advent. However, *Vox Clamantis in Deserto* is also the motto of Dartmouth College in the beautiful wilderness of Hanover, New Hampshire.

**Premieres:** Dr. Melinda O'Neal commissioned the piece and conducted the Concertato Singers of the Handel Society of Dartmouth College in the first two performances:

(1) The dedication ceremony for the newly renovated chapel at Aquinas House, Dartmouth's Catholic Student Center. (Unbeknownst to the composer until after the premiere, the group performed in front of a beautiful new stained-glass window at the back of the chapel featuring the motto *Vox Clamantis in Deserto*, replacing a tapestry with the same motto that had been there while he was a student.)

(2) The Handel Society's *Celebration for the Season* annual concert of Advent and Christmas music a couple weeks later, in Spaulding auditorium.

6 *mp*

S1 Vox Vox Vox Vox

S2 *mp* Vox Vox Vox Vox

A1 *mp* Vox Vox Vox Vox

A2 *mp* Vox Vox Vox Vox

T1 *mp* Vox Vox Vox Vox

T2 *mp* Vox Vox Vox Vox

B1 *mf* Vox *mf* cla man - tis in de-ser - to.

B2 *mf* Vox *mf* cla man - tis in de-ser - to.

10 *Gently p*

S1 Vox cla - man - tis in de - ser -

S2 *p* Vox cla - man - tis in de -

A1 *p* Vox cla - man -

A2 *p* Vox

T1 *p* Vox cla -

T2 *p* Vox

B1 *p* Vox

B2 *p* Vox

16

S1 to.

S2 ser - to.

A1 tis in de - ser - to.

A2 cla - man - tis in de - ser - to.

T1 man - tis in de - ser - to.

T2 cla - man - tis in de - ser - to.

B1 cla - man - tis in de - ser - to.

B2 cla - man - tis in de - ser - to.

22

*mf*  
S1 Vox cla man - tis in de-ser - to.

*mp*  
S2 Vox Vox Vox Vox

*mp*  
A1 Vox Vox Vox

*mf*  
A2 Vox. cla man - tis in de-ser - to.

*mf*  
T1 Vox Vox Vox Vox

*mf*  
T2 Vox cla man - tis in de-ser - to.

*mp*  
B1 Vox cla man - tis in de-ser - to.

*mp*  
B2 Vox Vox Vox Vox

26

S1

S2

A1

A2

T1

T2

B1

B2

*p*

Vox

Vox

Vox

Vox

Vox

Vox

Vox

cla -

cla - man -

cla - man - tis in de -

cla - man - tis in de - ser -

32

S1

S2

A1

A2

T1

T2

B1

B2

*p*

Vox

cla - man - tis in de - ser - to.

cla - man - tis in de - ser - to.

cla - man - tis in de - ser - to.

cla - man - tis in de - ser - to.

man - tis in de - ser - to.

tis in de - ser - to.

ser - to.

to.

39 *f* (Small notes: optional divisi)

S1 Vox Vox Vox Vox

S2 Vox Vox Vox Vox

A1 Vox Vox Vox Vox

A2 Vox Vox Vox Vox

T1 *f* 8 Vox cla man - tis in de-ser - to.

T2 *f* 8 Vox cla man - tis in de-ser - to.

B1 *f* 8 Vox cla man - tis in de-ser - to.

B2 *f* 8 Vox cla man - tis in de-ser - to.

43 *p*

S1 Vox cla - man - tis in de - ser -

S2 *p* Vox cla - man - tis in de -

A1 *p* Vox cla - man - tis in de -

A2 *p* Vox cla - man -

T1 *p* 8 Vox cla -

T2 *p* 8 Vox

B1 *p* Vox

B2

49

S1 to.

S2 ser - to.

A1 ser - to.

A2 tis in de - ser - to.

T1 man - tis in de - ser - to.

T2 cla - man - tis in de - ser - to.

B1 cla - man - tis in de - ser - to.

B2 *p* Vox cla - man - tis in de - ser - to.

56

S1 *pp* Vox *rit.* *at tempo* cla - man - tis in de-ser - to.

S2 *pp* Vox *rit.* *at tempo* cla - man - tis in de-ser - to.

A1 *pp* Vox *rit.* *at tempo*

A2 *pp* Vox *rit.* *at tempo*

T1 *pp* Vox *rit.* *at tempo*

T2 *pp* Vox *rit.* *at tempo* cla - man - tis in de-ser - to.

B1 *pp* Vox *rit.* *at tempo*

B2 *pp* Vox *rit.* *at tempo*

60 *More richly, with light vibrato*

S1

S2

A1

A2

T1

T2

B1

B2

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

Vox

Vox

Vox

Vox

Vox

Vox

Vox

cla -

cla - man -

cla - man - tis in de -

66

*mf*

S1 Vox

cla - man - tis in de -

S2 *mf* (theme, in double length)

Vox

A1

cla - man - tis in de - ser -

A2

cla - man - tis in de - ser - to.

T1

8 man - tis in de - ser - to.

T2

8 tis in de - ser - to.

B1

ser - to.

B2

to.

*f*

Vox

*f*

Vox

cla -

71

S1 ser - to. *f* Vox *f*

S2 (...Vox...) cla - man

A1 to. *f* Vox cla -

A2 *f* Vox cla - man -

T1 *f* Vox cla - man - tis in de -

T2 8 cla - man - tis in de - ser -

B1 cla - man - tis in de - ser - to.

B2 8 man - tis in de - ser - to. Vox

76

S1 *rit.* cla - man - tis in de - ser - to. *ff* Pa -

S2 tis in de - ser - to *ff* Pa -

A1 man - tis in de - ser to. *ff* Pa -

A2 tis in de - ser - to. in de - ser to *ff* Pa -

T1 8 ser - to. in de - ser - to *ff* Pa -

T2 8 to. Vox in de - ser - to *ff* Pa -

B1 Vox in de - ser - to *ff* Pa -

B2 8 cla - man - tis in de - ser - to. *ff* Pa -



$\text{♩} \approx 56$ . *Slower, releasing, with gusto (and natural vibrato)*

82

S1 ra - te vi - am Do - mi - ni;

S2 ra - te vi - am Do - mi - ni;

A1 ra - te vi - am Do - mi - ni;

A2 ra - te vi - am Do - mi - ni;

T1 ra - te vi - am Do - mi - ni;

T2 ra - te vi - am Do - mi - ni;

B1 ra - te vi - am Do - mi - ni;

B2 ra - te vi - am Do - mi - ni;

86

S1 rec - tas fa - ci - te se - mi - tas Ei - us.

S2 rec - tas fa - ci - te se - mi - tas Ei - us.

A1 rec - tas fa - ci - te se - mi - tas Ei - us.

A2 rec - tas fa - ci - te se - mi - tas Ei - us.

T1 rec - tas fa - ci - te se - mi - tas Ei - us.

T2 rec - tas fa - ci - te se - mi - tas Ei - us.

B1 rec - tas fa - ci - te se - mi - tas Ei - us.

B2 rec - tas fa - ci - te se - mi - tas Ei - us.

92

*mf* *rit.*

S1 Vox Vox

S2 *mf* *rit.* Vox Vox

A1 *mf* *rit.* Vox Vox

A2 *mf* *rit.* Vox Vox

T1 *mf* *rit.* Vox Vox

T2 *mf* *rit.* Vox Vox

B1 *mf* *rit.* Vox Vox

B2 *mf* *rit.* Vox Vox

Detailed description: This is a page from a musical score, page 92, featuring eight vocal parts: Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto 1 (A1), Alto 2 (A2), Tenor 1 (T1), Tenor 2 (T2), Bass 1 (B1), and Bass 2 (B2). The music is in 4/2 time and has a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The score begins at measure 92. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *rit.* (ritardando). The word 'Vox' is written below the staves, indicating vocal entries or specific vocal textures. The parts are arranged in a grand staff format with four systems of two staves each. The notation includes whole notes, half notes, and rests, with some parts featuring melodic lines and others providing harmonic support.