

Recit and Aria for Soprano and 9 instruments

Written in 1993 for the Continuum Ensemble and soprano Barbara Hannigan, *Recit and Aria* takes its text from the Satyagraha as quoted in 'In Face of Fear; Michael Scott's Challenge to South Africa' by Freda Troup. The Reverend Scott worked amongst the dispossessed in South Africa for ten years and the text I have set was his response to what those years meant to him.

The first section (*Recit*) is concerned with the insubstantial nature of God, but that in nature and natural phenomenon, God can be sensed. Following an instrumental interlude, the next section (*Aria*) is about the omnipresent nature of the spirit of God; God "is not confined by bars or prison walls, by sacred aisles and choirs and places where they sing".

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