

HL08501444  
WJMS1032

Eric Whitacre

*iii*

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Leonardo Dreams  
of His Flying Machine

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Charles Anthony Silvestri

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for SSATB Chorus and Percussion

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## LEONARDO DREAMS OF HIS FLYING MACHINE

In the notes on *Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine*, composer Eric Whitacre writes:

"Charles Anthony Silvestri is not only a brilliant poet, teacher and historian, he is a consummate choral singer blessed with a beautiful tenor voice. When Dr. Gene Brooks called and asked me to write the 2001 Raymond C. Brock Commission, I could think of no other author whose words I would rather set.

We started with a simple concept: what would it sound like if Leonardo Da Vinci were dreaming? And more specifically, what kind of music would fill the mind of such a genius? The drama would tell the story of Leonardo being tormented by the calling of the air, tortured to such degree that his only recourse was to solve the riddle and figure out how to fly.

We approached the piece as if we were writing an opera brève. Silvestri (Tony to his friends) would supply me with draft after draft of revised 'libretti', and I in turn would show him the musical fragments I had written. Tony would then begin to mold the texts into beautiful phrases and gestures as if he were a Renaissance poet, and I constantly refined my music to match the ancient, elegant style of his words. I think in the end we achieved a fascinating balance, an exotic hybrid of old and new.

*Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine* is the second in a planned cycle of element works (the first, *Cloudburst*, was completed nine years earlier). It is dedicated with much love and respect to my publisher, the radiant and elegant Ms. Gunilla Luboff."

### Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine

*Libretto brève by Charles Anthony Silvestri (Italian fragments taken from the notebooks of Leonardo Da Vinci)*

Tormented by visions of flight and falling,  
More wondrous and terrible each than the last,  
Master Leonardo imagines an engine  
To carry man up into the sun...

And he's dreaming the heavens call him,  
Softly whispering their siren-song:  
"Leonardo, Leonardo, vieni à volare."

L'uomo colle sue congegnate e grandi ale,  
facciendo forza contro alla resistente aria.

As the candles burn low he paces and writes,  
Releasing purchased pigeons one by one  
Into the golden Tuscan sunrise...

And as he dreams, again the calling,  
The very air itself gives voice:  
"Leonardo, Leonardo, vieni à volare."

Vicina all' elemento del fuoco...  
Scratching quill on crumpled paper  
(Rete, canna, filo, carta.)  
Images of wing and frame and fabric fastened tightly,  
...sulla suprema sottile aria.

As the midnight watchtower tolls,  
Over rooftop, street and dome,  
The triumph of a human being ascending  
In the dreaming of a mortal man.

Leonardo steels himself,  
Takes one last breath, and leaps....  
"Leonardo vieni à volare! Leonardo, sognare!"

"Leonardo, Leonardo, come fly."

A man with wings large enough and duly connected  
might learn to overcome the resistance of the air.

"Leonardo, Leonardo, come fly."

Close to the sphere of elemental fire...

(Net, cane, thread, paper.)

...in the highest and rarest atmosphere.

"Leonardo, come fly! Leonardo, dream!"

# LEONARDO DREAMS OF HIS FLYING MACHINE

Text by CHARLES ANTHONY SILVESTRI

dedicated with love to Gunilla Luboff

ERIC WHITACRE

*Rubato, e molto espressivo*

SOPRANO 1

Le - o - nar - do dream

SOPRANO 2

Le - o - nar - do dream

ALTO

Le - o - nar - do dreams dream

TENOR

Le - o - nar - do dreams

BASS

Le - o - nar - do dreams

PIANO

(rehearsal only)

*Rubato, e molto espressivo*

SOLO *mf* *f* *p*

ma chine.

5

(m)s of his fly - i(ng) ma - chine. Tor -  
ma - chine. Tor -  
ma - chine. Tor -  
ma - chine. Tor -  
dream (m)s of his fly - i(ng) ma - chine. Tor -  
dream (m)s of his fly - i(ng) ma - chine. Tor -

9 con moto

men - ted by vi - sions of flight and fall - - - ing, tor - men - ted by  
 men - ted by vi - sions of flight and fall - - - ing, tor - men - ted by  
 men - ted by vi - sions of flight and fall - ing fall - ing, tor - men - ted by  
 men - ted by vi - sions of flight and fall - - - ing, tor - men - ted by  
 men - ted by vi - sions of flight and fall - - - ing, tor - men - ted by  
 con moto

14

vi - sions of flight and fall - - - ing *mp*  
 vi - sions of flight and fall - - - ing *mp*  
 vi - sions of flight of flight and fall - - - ing *mp*  
 vi - sions of flight and fall - - - ing more *mp*  
 vi - sions of flight and fall - - - ing more *mp*

18

more won - drous and ter - ri - ble

more won - drous and ter - ri - ble

more won - drous and ter - ri - ble

won - drous and ter - ri - ble each than the last more won - drous and ter - ri - ble

won - drous and ter - ri - ble each than the last more won - drous and ter - ri - ble

22

*mp espressivo* each Mas - ter Le - o - nar - do i - ma - gines an en - gine to car - ry a man up, —

*mp espressivo* each than last, Le - o - nar - do i - ma - gines an en - gine to car - ry a man up, —

*mp espressivo* each Mas - ter Le - o - nar - do i - ma - gines an en - gine to car - ry a man up, —

*mp espressivo* each Mas - ter Le - o - nar - do i - ma - gines an en - gine to car - ry a man up, —

27 *f* *mp* *ten. mp dolce* *accel. rit. accel.*

in-to the sun And as he's dream-ing the 'hea-vens

*f* *mp* *ten. mp dolce*

in-to the sun And as he's dream - ing hea-vens

*f* *mp* *p* \*close slowly to "n" *mp dolce*

in-to the sun in-to the sun\* ..... (n) as he's dream ing the

*f* *mp* *p* \*close slowly to "n" *mp dolce*

in-to the sun in-to the sun\* ..... (n) as he's dream-ing the hea-vens

*f* *mp* *p* \*close slowly to "n" *mp dolce*

in-to the sun in-to the sun\* ..... (n) as he's dream-ing hea-vens

*accel. rit. accel.*

34 *rit. accel. rit. Moderato, misterioso*

call him soft-ly whis - pering their si-ren song(ng)\* Le-o-

*p* \*close slowly to "ng" *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

call him soft-ly whis - pering their si-ren song(ng)\* Le-o-nar-do Le-o-nar-do

*p* \*close slowly to "ng"

hea-vens call him whis - pering si-ren song(ng)\* dream(m)s,

*p* \*close slowly to "ng"

call him soft-ly whis-pering si - ren song(ng)\* dream(m)s,

*p* \*close slowly to "ng"

call him soft-ly whis-pering their si-ren song(ng)\* dream(m)s,

*rit. accel. rit. Moderato, misterioso*

41 *cresc. poco a poco* **allargando** **A tempo** *mf* *molto esp.*

nar-do Le-o-nar-do vo-la-re, Le-o-nar-do vo-la-re.

Le-o-nar-do Le-o-nar-do vo-la-re, vo-la-

dreams of fly-ing(ng) vo-la-re, vie-ni a vo-la-re.

dreams of fly-ing(ng) vo-la-re, Le-o-nar-do vo-la-re.

dreams of fly-ing(ng) vo-la-re, vo-la-re, vo-la-re.

*mf* *molto esp.*

**allargando** **A tempo**

47 **Molto più mosso** *con fuoco mf*

L'uo-mo col-le su-a con-gie-gnia-te e a-le, fac-cien-do for-za con-tro

re. fac-cien-do for-za con-tro

*con fuoco mf* *mf* *s*

L'uo-mo col-le su-a con-gie-gnia-te e a-le fac-cien-do for-za con-tro

*con fuoco mf* *s*

L'uo-mo col-le su-a con-gie-gnia-te e gran-di a-le fac-cien-do for-za con-tro al-la re-sis-

*con fuoco mf* *s*

L'uo-mo col-le su-a con-gie-gnia-te e gran-di a-le fac-cien-do for-za con-tro al-la re-sis-

**Molto più mosso**

rit. . . . . Allegro con urgenza

\* close slowly to "m"

50

al a - ria Le - o - nar - do dream\* (m)s of his

al - la re - sis - ten - te a - ria Le - o - nar - do dream\* (m)s of his

— al - la re - sis - ten - te a - ria Le - o - nar - do dream\* (m)s of his

ten - te a - - - - ria Le - o - nar - do dream\* (m)s of his

ten - te a - - - - ria Le - o - nar - do dream\* (m)s of his

rit. . . . . Allegro con urgenza

rit. . . . . Moderato con rubato

p dolce

56

fly-ing(ng) ma - chine he pa - ces and writes, re -

fly-ing(ng) ma - chine As the can - dles burn low he pa - ces and writes, re -

fly-ing(ng) ma - - - - chine As the can - dles burn low re - leas - ing

fly-ing(ng) ma - chine

fly-ing(ng) ma - chine

rit. . . . . Moderato con rubato



rit. . . . . Poco più mosso (♩ = 52)

63 *mf* *mp*

leas - ing pur - chased pi - geons one by one by one,

leas - ing pi - geons by one by one by one,

pur - chased pi - geons by one by one by

one by

rit. . . . . Poco più mosso (♩ = 52)

68

by one by one by one, by

one by one, one by one, by one,

one by one, one by one by one, one by one,

one by one by one, one by one, by

*mp*  
by one by one, one, one by one, one by

*mp*

rit. . . . . Moderato (♩ = 72)

72

one by one, by one, one by one in-to the

one by one, by one, one by one in-to the

one by one, by one, one by one in-to the

one by one, by one, one by one in-to the

one by one by one, one by one by one, one by one by one, in-to the

rit. . . . . Moderato (♩ = 72)

77

gold-en Tus-can sun-rise, the gold-en sun-rise,

gold-en Tus-can sun-rise, the gold-en Tus-can sun-rise, and as he dream(m)s a-

gold-en Tus-can sun-rise, the gold-en Tus-can sun-rise, and as he dream(m)s a-

gold-en Tus-can sun-rise, Tus-can sun-rise, as he dream(m)s a-

gold-en Tus-can sun-rise, sun-rise, as he dream(m)s a-

rit. . . . . accel. rit. . . . .



92 *f* *p* *f appassionato*

la - re! sul - la su - pre - ma sot - ti - le

*f* *p* *f appassionato*

la - re! Re - te, can - na, e fi - lo, car - ta

*f appassionato*

Vi - ci - na all' el - e - men - to del fuo co del

*f appassionato*

Vi - ci - na all' el - e - men - to del fuo co del

*f* *p* *f appassionato*

la - re! Scratch - ing quill - on crum - pled pa - per

95

a

a

fu - co wing, wing, wing,

fu - co i - ma - ges of wing, wing, wing, wing,

i - ma - ges of wing, frame and fab - ric fast - ened tight - ly

98

*mp* *mf*

ria Mas - ter Le - o - nar - do Da Vin - ci drea(m)s of his fly - i(ng) ma - chi(n)e.

*mp* *mf*

ria Mas - ter Le - o - nar - do Da Vin - ci drea(m)s of his fly - i(ng) ma - chi(n)e.

*mp* *mf* *mp* like bells (close to "ng")

Mas - ter Le - o - nar - do Da Vin - ci drea(m)s of his fly - i(ng) ma - chi(n)e. bong.

*mp* *mf*

Mas - ter Le - o - nar - do Da Vin - ci drea(m)s of his fly - i(ng) ma - chi(n)e.

*mp* *mf*

Mas - ter Le - o - nar - do Da Vin - ci drea(m)s of his fly - i(ng) ma - chi(n)e.

102

*mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

o - ver roof - top street and dome, the

*mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

As the mid - night watch - tow'r tolls, o - ver roof - top street and dome, the

*mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

bong, bong, bong, bong, bong, bong, bong, bong, bong, bong,

*mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

As the mid - night watch - tow'r tolls, o - ver roof - top street and dome, the

*mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

As the mid - night watch - tow'r tolls, o - ver roof - top street and dome, the

107

triumph of a hu-man be-ing as-cend-ing in the dream-ing of a mor-tal man. Le-o-nar-do  
 triumph of a hu-man be-ing as-cend-ing in the dream-ing of a mor-tal man. Le-o-nar-do  
 bong, in the dream-ing of a mor-tal man. Le-o-nar-do  
 triumph of a hu-man be-ing as-cend-ing in the dream-ing of a mor-tal man. Le-o-nar-do  
 triumph of a hu-man be-ing as-cend-ing in the dream-ing of a mor-tal man.

111 *fp* *cresc. poco a poco*

steels him-self, he steels him-self, takes one last breath, and  
 steels him-self, he steels him-self, takes one last breath, and  
 steels him-self, he steels him-self, takes one last breath, Le-o-nar-do and  
 nar-do Le-o-nar-do takes one last breath, Vo-la-rel and  
 steels him-self, he steels him-self, takes one last breath, and

THE FLIGHT

$\text{♩} = 76$

116 *f*  
 leaps!

*f* leaps!  
 ALTO I *pp* tu(m) - tu(m) - tu(m) - tu(m) tu(m) tu(m).

*f* *pp*  
 la

*f* *pp*  
 la  
*staccato* "Wind"

*f* leaps! (whhh)  
 "Wind" *pp*

*f* leaps! (whhh)  
 .. = 76

120 *pp*  
 la la la la la la la la la la

tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum tum

*pp*  
 lo

la  
 gradually change to "shhh"..... (shhh)

gradually change to "shhh"..... (shhh)

2 SOLOISTS

125 *pp dolce*



ah

SOPR. I



la la

SOPR. II



tum tum tum tum tum la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

ALTO I



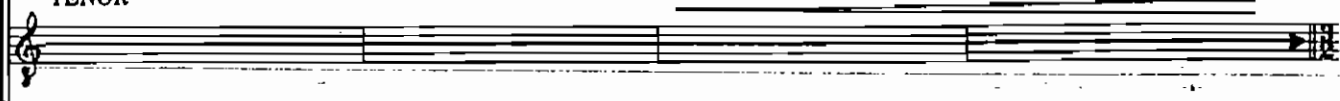
lo lo lo lo lo lo la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

ALTO II

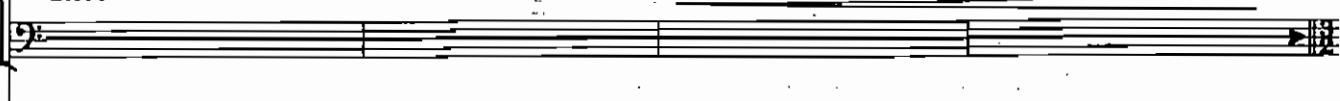


la la

TENOR



BASS





129

*sf*

a-o-(m)

*p*

*molto*

*p sub.*

la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

*sf*

*p*

*p*

la la

*sf*

*p*

*p*

la la

*sf*

*p*

*p*

la la

*sf*

*mf*

*mf*

(sh)awm ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma

*sf*

*mf*

*mf*

(sh)awm ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma

131 SOLO SOPR. I

mp *dolcissimo*

Le - o, Le - o -

*p* la

*p* la

*p* la

*p* la

*mf* ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma

*mf* ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma

133

nar do vo la rc

la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

la la

la la

la la

+ ALTO SOLO  
Finger cymbals

135 *mp*

*sim.*

ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah

la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

la la

la la

la la

*mp*

tu(m) tu(m) tu(m) tu(m) tu(m) tu(m) tu(m) la la la la la la la

*mp*

tu(m) tu(m) tu(m) tu(m) tu(m) tu(m) tu(m) la la la la la la la

*pp*

Tambourine

137

a-o-(m)

*mf*

Le - o, Le - o - nar - - do vie - ni a - vo -

*mp*

la - la la - la la - la la - la - la - la - la - la -

*mf*

Le - o, Le - o - nar - - do vie - ni a - vo -

*mp*

la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

*mf*

la la

*mf*

la la

*mp*

*P*  
Low Hand drum

Piano accompaniment consisting of a grand staff with treble and bass clefs.



142 *Fing. Cymb., as before*

la, ah ah Le - o - nar - - - do vo -

la re Le - o - nar - - - do vo -

la re Le - o - nar - - - do vo -

*mp* la, la la la la la la la la *f* Le - o - nar - - - do vo -

*mp* la, la la la la la la la la *f* Le - o - nar - - - do vo -

la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

144 *ff dim. poco a poco*

la, ah ah Le - o - nar - do vo - la

*ff dim. poco a poco*

la re Le - o - nar - do vo - la

*ff dim. poco a poco*

la re Le - o - nar - do vo - la

*mp* *ff dim. poco a poco*

la, la la la la la la la la sog - na - ha ha ha ha - re sog -

*mp* *ff dim. poco a poco*

la, la la la la la la la la sog - na - ha ha ha ha - re sog -

*ff dim. poco a poco*

la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la sog - na - ha ha ha ha - re sog -

*ff dim. poco a poco*

la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la sog - na - ha ha ha ha - re sog -

*sim.*



147

re

re

re

na - ha ha ha ha ha - re sog - na - ha ha ha ha ha - re

na - ha ha ha ha ha - re sog - na - ha ha ha ha ha - re

na - ha ha ha ha ha - re sog - na - ha ha ha ha ha - re sog - na,

na - ha ha ha ha ha - re sog - na - ha ha ha ha ha - re sog - na

na - ha ha ha ha ha - re sog - na - ha ha ha ha ha - re sog - na

A tempo  
Fing. cymb., as before

150

*pp*

ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah ah

*pp*

la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

*pp* *p* *pp*

Dream(m) ma ma ma ma mama ma mama ma mama ma(m)

*pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

la la

*pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

la la

*pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

la la

*pp* *p* *pp*

re mamama ma ma mama ma(m) Dream(m) mamama

Tamb.  
*ppp*

H. Dr.

A tempo

153

ah ah ah ah ah ah

BAR. SOLO

out of tempo  
mp molto teneramente

Le o,

la la la la la la la la la la la la la

Dream(m) ma ma ma ma ma ma ma ma

*pp* *p*

la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

*pp* *p*

la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

*pp* *p*

la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la

*p* *pp*

ma ma ma ma ma(m) Dream(m) ma ma ma

continue pattern in tempo and *dim. al niente*

ah ah

Le - o - nar - do vo - la - re.

continue pattern and *dim. al niente*

la la la la la la la la la

*p* *pp* continue pattern and *dim. al niente*

ma ma ma ma ma(m)

continue pattern and *dim. al niente*

la la la la la la la la la la la

continue pattern and *dim. al niente*

la la la la la la la la la la la

continue pattern in tempo and *dim. al niente* \* "Wind" 15"

la la la la la la la la la la la

(shhh)

*p* *pp* continue pattern in tempo and *dim. al niente* \* "Wind" 15"

ma ma ma ma ma(m)

(shhh)

continue pattern in tempo and *dim. al niente*

\* Tenors and basses should gradually dissolve into wind, and continue the wind for 10-15 seconds after the women's voices fade away. The effect should be that of the flying machine disappearing into the distance.