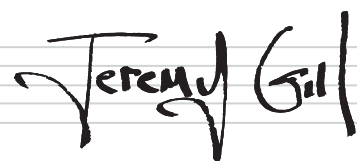


The Invisible City

for countertenor and piano



Jeremy Gil

The Invisible City

for countertenor and piano
text by Italo Calvino, translated by William Weaver

Commission

commissioned by American Opera Projects for Chautauqua Opera

Premiere

4 August 2016 at the Athenaeum Hotel Parlor, Chautauqua, NY
by Patrick Terry and Jeremy Gill

Instrumentation

countertenor
piano

Duration

approximately 6 minutes

Acknowledgment

this work was composed while in residence at Copland House,
Cortlandt Manor, New York, as a recipient of the Copland House Residency Award

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The Invisible City

The slender stilts that rise from the ground
at a great distance from one another
and are lost above the clouds support the city.
You climb them with ladders.

On the ground the inhabitants rarely show themselves:
they prefer not to come down.

Nothing of the city touches the earth
except those long flamingo legs on which it rests
and, when the days are sunny, a pierced, angular shadow
that falls on the foliage.

They love the earth
and with spyglasses and telescopes aimed downward
they never tire of examining it,
leaf by leaf, stone by stone, ant by ant,
contemplating with fascination their own absence.

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for Patrick Terry

THE INVISIBLE CITY

Italo Calvino

translated by William Weaver

Jeremy Gill (2016)

Countertenor *stentando - - tempo*
p, molto calmo *p sempre*

♩ = 72

8^{va} 7

The slen-der stilts that rise from the ground at a great

Piano *pp* *loco* *Ped. sempre*

8

cresc.

dis - tance from one a - no - ther and are lost a - bove the clouds

pp *cresc. poco a poco*

15

sup - port the ci - ty. You climb them with lad - ders.

sub. p *dim.*

22 rit. - - - stentando - - tempo *p*

On the ground the in - ha - bi - tants rare - ly

29 *espr.* < show them - selves: they pre - fer not to come down.

36 ♩ = 52

39

41 *f* un poco movimento

No - - - thing of the ci - - - ty tou-

44

- - - ches the earth

47 *intimo, non p*

ex - - - cept those long fla - - - min - - - go legs

50 *cresc.*

on which it rests and,

53

when the days are sun - ny, a

f

sempre cresc.

56

pierced, an - gu - lar sha - - dow that

f

3

58

falls

59

on the fo-li-age. They love

sub. meno f $\text{♩} = 72$ *stentando - - tempo*
con la voce piena

8va

ff *ff* *ff* *mf* *p* *sub. p*

loco

sonoro

65 *p*

the earth and with spy - glass - es and te - le - scopes aimed down - ward they

72

ne - ver tire of ex - a - mi - ning it, leaf by leaf,

un poco cresc. *sub. p* *poco*

78 *più p* *poco rit. - - tempo (non stentando)* *pp*

stone by stone, ant by ant, con -

dim. *pp*

85 *rit. - - - -* *pp*

- tem - pla - ting with fa - sci - na - tion their own ab - sence.

8va *(loco)* *n.*