RADIX MALORUM
EST CUPIDITAS

Lewis Edmunds
Composer's notes

Inspired by The Pardoner's Tale, one of Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, Radix Malorum est Cupiditas explores the nature of greed through a choral piece. The piece uses harmonic tension, and repetition to express the taunting, seductive, and often impulsive nature of greed, the piece simulates struggle and temptation in the characters within the tale.

During the writing process I found the words of the piece served well the images I wished to create, in that the ends of the words malorum and cupiditas could be easily transformed in to the vowels oo and ah. Using the vowels in the middle section allows the audience to be lulled in to a trance-like state - the seduction of greed - the performers should bear this in mind throughout. Each change of vowel should be supported by a gradual change of the shape of the mouth, to achieve the desired effect.

The piece received its world premier on July 8th 2017 by conductor Benedict Preece and the Caritas Chamber Choir in Canterbury, UK.

Lewis Edmunds
RADIX MALORUM EST CUPIDITAS

Largo

Lewis Edmunds

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

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Seductively, with lots of space
S. dix ma-lor-um est cu-pi-di-tas

A. oo-ah

T. oo-ah

B. oo-ah

31 pp

S. Ah

A. oo-ah oo-ah

T. oo-ah oo-ah

B. oo-ah oo-ah
Radix malorum est cupiditas

Radix malorum poco a poco

Radix malorum est cupiditas

Radix malorum poco a poco