

Gayatri Mantra

This is a setting of the Gayatri Mantra for any number of singers with accompaniment. Vocalists may sing at the notated pitch, or one or two octaves below to suit their ranges. (This is not a call-and-response kirtan; the congregation sings throughout.) Accompaniment is for 6-string electric violin (tuned from top EADGCF) with a curved bow such as the BACH.bogen™. This bow allows polyphonic play; it is possible to play this work with a standard “straight” bow but it won’t work as well. It is suitable to use any other instrument, such as keyboard, that has an appropriate range and sound. The harmonic structure is too complex to allow the addition of a drone. The vocal line should be doubled by an instrument.

Pronunciation of the Sanskrit; the dot under the *h* at the end of *bhuvah* means to pronounce it *bhuvaha*, which is indicated as *bhuvah/a*. The same is true with the other two words with this dotted *h* (called *visarga*). The *i* when not marked with a line is short, like the *i* in *fish*. The *i* is like the *i* in *pique*, short *u* as in *pull*, long *u* as in *rule*. The *a* sounds are like the *u* in *but*, long *a* like in *far*, *o* as in *go*. The *v* in *svah* is pronounced as a *w*.

Translation; “O Divine Beings of all three worlds, we meditate on the glorious splendor of the Divine Creator. May He illumine our minds.” This is from the Rig Veda.

Composed in July and August 2002.

Bill Robinson

6-string violin

voices

1

Om bhūr buvaḥ(a) svaḥ(a) tat savi tur vareṇ yam bhar go de va

mp

sya dhī mahi dhiyo yo naḥ(a) pracho dayāt

2

Om bhūr buvaḥ(a) svaḥ(a) tat savitur vareṇ yam bhar go de va

mp, cresc. p. a p.

3

sya dhī mahi dhiyo yo naḥ(a) prachodayāt Om (mf) bhūr buvaḥ(a)

svaḥ(a) tat savitur vareṇ yam bhar go de va sya dhī mahi dhiyo

(f) ff

14

yo naḥ(a) prachodayāt Om bhūr buvaḥ(a) svaḥ(a) tat savitur vareṇ yam

ff

18

sya dhī mahi dhiyo yo nah(a) prachodayāt Om bhūr buvah(a)

svah(a) tat savitur vareṇ yam bhar go de va sya dhī mahi dhiyo yo nah(a) prachodayāt

19

Om bhūr buvah(a) svah(a) tat savitur vareṇ yam

bhar go de va sya dhī mahi dhiyo

20

yo nah(a) prachodayāt Om bhūr buvah(a) svah(a) tat savitur vareṇ yam

bhar go de va sya dhī mahi dhiyo yo nah(a) prachodayāt

111

Om bhūr buvah(a) svah(a) tat savitur vareṇ yam

bhar go de va sya dhī mahi dhiyo

p dolce 2 4

112

yo nah(a) prachodayāt Om bhūr buvah(a)

svah(a) tat savitur vareṇ yam bhar go de va

sya dhī mahi dhiyo yo nah(a) prachodayat

p cresc. p. a p.

1 4 2+2 2

2 4 3 1

sya dhī mahi dhiyo yo nah(a) prachodayat

(f) 2 *ff* 1 1

OM

ff *pp*

2 2 1 1

omino

omino

oomino

omino

4 1