

I Cannot Dance

Mechthild of Magdeburg 1207-1282

Larry Nickel

Lacrimoso ♩ = 60

S.1
S.2
A.1
A.2
T.
B.1
B.2

p

*dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm *do do do do

*dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

*dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

*dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

rehearsal

*dm = doom, close directly to the "m"

*do - as in "do you want to dance?"

subato

5

mp *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

I I can

I I can

*do do do do dm dm

*do dm (dm) dm (dm)

9

I can - not I can - not dance I can - not dance O

I can - not I can - not dance I can - not dance O

dm dm dm

dm (dm) dm (dm) dm

12

Lord, un - less You lead me.

Lord, un - less lead me.

dm do* do do do do do

dm do* do do do do do do

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

mf *mp*

rit.

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B ♩ = 72 - steady pulse

15

p *mp* *mf*

ah ah

p

p

p

p

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

dm chk dm dm dm dm chk dm dm dm chk dm dm chk dm

B



19

C

p *mp*

I I can-not I can- not dance

mp

I can- I can-not I can- not dance

mp

dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm

mp

dm (d' dm dm dm (dm) dm (dm) dm dm dm (dm)

C

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23

mf
I can-not dance O Lord, un-less You lead me, If You

mf *mp*
I can-not dance O Lord, un-less You lead me, do do do do do do do

mf *mp*
dm dm dm dm dm do* do do do do do do do

mf
dm (dm) dm (dm) do* do do do do

♩ = ♪ (♩ = 48)

27

D *leggiero*

want me to leap with joy see You dance and sing if you

leggiero
do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do if you

leggiero
do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do if you

leggiero
do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do if you

♩ = ♪ (♩ = 48)

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31

want me to leap with joy _____ let me see You dance and sing. _____

want me to leap with joy _____ let me see You dance and sing. _____

want me to leap with joy _____ let me see You dance and sing dance and

want me to leap with joy, leap with joy, let me see You dance _____ dance and

E

espressivo

35

mf Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu, e - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

mf Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu,

mf Al - le - lu - ia, - lu, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

mf sing, Al - le - ia Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu, Sing Al - le - lu -

mf Sing, - lu - ia Sing, Al - le - lu - ia

F

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39

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu, Al - lu - le - ia.

Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu, Al - le lu, Al - le - lu ia. Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, lu - ia.

alla Swingle Singers

44

p *leggiero*

da ba da ba da da ba da ba da ba da ba da

mp *leggiero* *p*

da ba da ba da do do do do do do do do

mp *leggiero* *p*

da ba da ba da da da ba da ba da da ba da ba da do do do do do do do

mp *p*

da ba da ba da

♩ = ♪ (♩ = 72)

with intensity

*Teach me, teach me to dance (in Latin).

48 **F** (high hat effect)

pp *mf* *pp* *mf*

*Do - ce - te me, do - ce - te me sal - ta - re. I can-not dance, O Lord, un-less you lead me.

pp *mf* *pp* *mf*

*Do - ce - te me, do - ce - te me sal - ta - re. I can-not dance, O Lord, un-less you lead me.

pp *mf* *pp* *mf*

*Do - ce - te me, do - ce - te me sal - ta - re. I can-not dance, O Lord, un-less you lead me.

f *pp* *mf* *f* *pp* *mf*

dm Do - ce - te me, do - ce - te me sal - ta - re. dm I can-not dance, O Lord, un-less you lead me.

F *cabasa twist (add egg shaker on 16ths)*

50

solo *f*

If you

pp *mf*

Do - ce - te me, do - ce - te me sal - ta - re. Do - ce - te me, do - ce - te me sal - ta - re.

pp *mf* *pp* *mf*

Do - ce - te me, do - ce - te me sal - ta - re. Do - ce - te me, do - ce - te me sal - ta - re.

pp *mf* *pp* *mf*

Do - ce - te me, do - ce - te me sal - ta - re. Do - ce - te me, do - ce - te me sal - ta - re.

f *pp* *mf* *f* *pp* *mf*

dm Do - ce - te me, do - ce - te me sal - ta - re. dm Do - ce - te me, do - ce - te me sal - ta - re.

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want me to leap, if You want me to leap joy - ful - ly, joy - ful - ly,

pp *mf* *pp* *mf*

*Do - ce - te me, do - ce - te me sal - ta - re. I can - not dance, O Lord, un - less you lead me.

pp *mf* *pp* *mf*

*Do - ce - te me, do - ce - te me sal - ta - re. I can - not dance, O Lor u lead me.

pp *mf* *mp* *mf*

*Do - ce - te me, do - ce - te me sal - ta - re. I can - not dar un - less you lead me.

f *pp* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf*

dm Do - ce - te me, do - ce - te me sal - ta - re. dm I ca e, O Lord, un - less you lead me.

54

let me see You dance and Lord. Fill me with Your

pp *f* *pp* *f*

Do - ce - te me, do - ce - te me sal - ta - re. Do - ce - te me, do - ce - te me sal - ta - re.

pp *mf* *pp* *f*

Do - ce - te ce - te me sal - ta - re. Do - ce - te me, do - ce - te me sal - ta - re.

pp *mf* *pp* *f*

Do - ce - te ce - te me sal - ta - re. Do - ce - te me, do - ce - te me sal - ta - re.

f *pp* *mf* *f* *pp* *f*

dm ce - te me, do - ce - te me sal - ta - re. dm Do - ce - te me, do - ce - te me sal - ta - re.

10₅₆

fp

ff

joy!

Then I shall leap with joy, then I shall leap with joy!

Then I shall leap with joy, then I shall leap with joy!

Then I shall leap with joy, then I shall leap with joy!

Then I shall leap with joy, then I shall leap with

Piano accompaniment for measures 56-58, featuring chords and arpeggiated patterns in both hands.

59

$\text{♩} = \text{♪}$ ($\text{♩} = 72$)

mp

Then I shall leap in-to love, Love in-to know-ledge, then from know-ledge in-to Har-vest,

mp

Then I shall leap in-to and from Love in-to know-ledge, then from know-ledge in-to Har-vest,

mp percussively

Do - ce - te sal - ta-re Do - ce - te me sal - ta-re Do - ce - te me sal - ta-re

mp percuss

Do me sal-ta-re Do - ce - te me sal - ta-re Do - ce - te me sal - ta-re

Piano accompaniment for measures 59-61, featuring rhythmic patterns and chords.

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62

mp Sweet-est fruit of the vine. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le, Al-le - lu - ia *f*

mp Sweet-est fruit of the vine. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le, Al - le - lu - ia *f*

f Do - ce - te me sal - ta - re Then I shall leap in - to love, and from - to know - ledge,

f Do - ce - te me sal - ta - re Then I shall leap in - to love, Love in - to know - ledge,

65

mp Al - le - lu - ia, e, Al - le - lu - ia! Leap in - to love! *f*

mp Al - le - Al - e, Al - le - lu - ia! Leap in - to love! *f*

then from know - Har - vest, Sweet - est fruit of the vine. Leap in - to love!

then fr edge in - to Har - vest, Sweet - est fruit of the vine. Leap in - to love!

G (♩ = 144) *conduct 8ths*

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69

Love in - to know - ledge Know - ledge in - to Har - vest. Sweet - est fruit, be -

Love in - to know - ledge Know - ledge in - to Har - vest. Sweet - est fruit, be -

Love in - to know - ledge Know - ledge in - to Har - vest. Sweet - est fruit, be -

Love in - to know - ledge Know - ledge in - to Har - vest. Sweet - est fruit, be -

percussion continues



74

yond all hu - man sen - sa - ti - on Leap in - to love! Love in - to

yond all hu - man sen - sa - tion Leap in - to love! Love in - to

yond all hu - man sen - sa - tion Leap in - to love! Love in - to

yond all hu - man sen - sa - tion Leap in - to love! Love in - to

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79

with intensity

know - ledge, Know - ledge in - to Har - vest. Sweet - est fruit, be - yond all hu - man, be -

know - ledge, Know - ledge in - to Har - vest. Sweet - est fruit, be - yond all hu - man, be -

know - ledge, Know - ledge in - to Har - vest. Sweet - est fruit, be - y u - man, be -

know - ledge, Know - ledge in - to Har - vest. Sweet - est fruit. ad all hu - man, be -



(in two)

84

H (♩ = 48) *more contemplative*

yond all hu - man sen - sa - tion! There I will stay with

yond all hu - man sen - tion! do do do do do do do do

yond all hu - ma - tion! do do do do do do do do

yond a sen - sa - tion! do do

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96

Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia,

Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu,

ia Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu, Sing Al - le - lu - lu - ia,

ia Sing, Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia,

100

Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu

Al - le lu, Al - le - lu Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu,

Al - le - lu Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia

or

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rubato - directed

molto rit.

104

ia. dance for joy!

Al - le - lu - ia. Dance for joy!

Dance for joy!

Dance for joy!

molto rit.



Composer Dr. [Name] nearly died in 1989 - from viral encephalitis. He was in a coma for 17 months. After what some might consider a miraculous recovery, Larry committed himself to writing music, more earnestly, about the wonder and love of God.

During his recovery, [Name] wrote and arranged 22 pieces, a collection which is now known as **My Father Taught Me**". Then he founded a choir together with director [Name] and the "West Coast Mennonite Chamber Choir". Long story short: the choir has released 13 CDs over a period of 15 years and featured luminaries such as Ben [Name]. These recordings included 120 of Nickel's compositions. They were featured on CBC and Moody Radio. Nearly one million dollars from CD proceeds were given by the choir to **Communitas** - a charity for disadvantaged people.

Composer Notes: My wife and I spent [Name] during the summer of 2013. We were treated to some amazing Flamenco music and dancing. This composition reflects [Name] inspiration. Feel free to experiment with percussion and Flamenco style hand clapping.

Mechthild of Magdeburg lived in the 13th century. She was a Beguine and a medieval mystic whose book *Das fließende Licht der Gottheit* (The Flowing Light of Divinity) describes her visions of God. Her criticism of church dignitaries, religious laxity and claims to theological insight aroused so much opposition that she was called for the burning of her writings. With advancing age she was not only alone and the object of criticism but she was also blind.

Mechthild's writing is so emotional. **I Cannot Dance** reminds me of several Psalms where the author cries out to God for delivery from the doldrums and the answer is answered. I added "Alleluia" to the text. Speaking personally, acknowledging the Creator and giving thankful praise is a joyful transition.



I cannot dance, O Lord, unless You lead me.
 If you want me to leap joyfully, let me see You dance and sing.

Then I will leap into Love and from Love to Knowledge,
 and from Knowledge into Harvest - that sweetest fruit beyond all human sensation.

There I will remain with You, whirling.

Mechthild of Magdeburg

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