

E Pluribus Unum

for chimes or carillon

Mark Gotham
2019

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c.3 minutes

A note on the piece

‘E pluribus unum’ (‘Out of many, one’) is a motto of the United States which originally referred to the founding of a single country from the original 13 territories. Today it speaks to the ongoing union of a great diversity of people and geography into one united entity; it is an inspiring motto, perhaps especially in divided times.

This piece is based on a note-for-note transcription of the national anthem (*Star-Spangled Banner*), but that fact is not initially clear: we start with the many notes disparately scattered across the instrument, and only gradually arrive at the familiar tune — out of many, one.

This version for chimes or carillon was written for the Cornell Chimes and first performed by the Cornell Chimes and Cornell University on February 18, 2019 (Washington's Birthday / Presidents' Day).

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Slow, ♩ = c.40

p

6

f *p*

11

f (sub.) *p* *f* *p*

16

f

21

p

25

f *mf*

29

33

Slower *f* A tempo *p*

37

Slower *f* (Still slower, and slowing ...) *p*

Detailed description: The score is written on a single treble clef staff in 3/4 time. It begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a tempo of 'Slow, ♩ = c.40'. The piece is marked with various dynamics: *p* (piano), *f* (forte), *f* (sub.), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *p*. There are several slurs and hairpins indicating dynamic changes. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 6, 11, 16, 21, 25, 29, 33, and 37 marked. The piece concludes with a double bar line. Performance instructions include 'Slower' and 'A tempo' at measure 33, and 'Slower' and '(Still slower, and slowing ...)' at measure 37.