

Agnus Dei

for brass septet

Glen Edward Newton (ASCAP)

Moderato (♩ = c. 92)

E♭ Soprano Cornet

1st B♭ Cornet

2nd B♭ Cornet

E♭ Tenor Horn

B♭ Baritone

Euphonium

Tuba

Composer's note:

I originally composed this Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) in 1975 for a vocal trio with guitar accompaniment, to be performed by a men's trio at the United Church of Pullman, Washington, with me playing classical guitar. I rescored it in December, 2003, for two choirs of trombones, for the Minneapolis Trombone Choir. I rescored it again in June, 2007, for Ameriikan Poijat, a brass septet, and in 2008 for the Sheldon Theatre Brass Band. Even without lyrics, the brass versions convey the calm reverence of the originals through their phrasing and dynamics.

The original is in D, a good key for guitar, bass, tenor, and counter-tenor. The trombone choir version is in C. The brass band version, like this one, is in B♭.

The lower four voices play the accompaniment, with a few adjustments to the guitar part to make it more suitable for brass (e.g., rescoring the guitar harmonics within the normal brass ranges). In comparison with the accompaniment, the cornets play the vocal trio parts an octave higher than the original. I like the additional separation of the ranges.

Glen E. Newton, August 5, 2008