

# “KATABASIS”

*a round for four voices in canon a semitone below*

Katabasis is for any number of non-decaying instruments capable of simultaneously realizing four voices.

There are twelve transpositions of the melody with entrances (X, X', X'') every four measures. Each voice part includes three transpositions of the sixteen measure-long melody that cycle back on themselves every forty-eight measures at an octave transposition.

A performance should begin with the instrument capable of producing the highest pitch. For example: If a piccolo's C8 is the highest pitch available, Katabasis would begin at entrance 4', transposed up two octaves and the piccoloist would continue to read part IV – cycling back to entrance 4 – and through the form at the new transposition until the range of the melody between entrances is no longer possible for the instrument; in this case, after the piccolo's D5 in its passage at entrance 4, an octave above written.

Using the procedure outlined in the example, performers determine the highest possible octave and transposition (X, X', X'') of the melody possible for them. In performance, when the ensemble arrives at this point, the performer begins playing their melody and continues through the form and any possible octave transpositions. Depending on instrumentation, a performance may not always include a melodic entrance every four measures. Once a performer reaches their lowest possible iteration of the melody, the first pitch of the following melodic entrance is held briefly and the performer remains tacet for the rest of the performance.

Singers are provided with vowel sounds from the International Phonetic Alphabet.

The musical score consists of four staves, each representing a different voice part (I, II, III, IV). Each staff shows a melodic line with notes and rests, and below it, the corresponding International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) vowel sounds. The staves are arranged vertically, with Staff I at the top and Staff IV at the bottom. The IPA sounds are:   
 I: а в з э е - е і ї - і і і і і у   
 II: ... э э æ а ä а в з э е - е   
 III: ... э э æ а ä   
 IV: ... э э æ а ä а в з э е - е і ї - і і і   
 The score also includes some additional IPA sounds at the bottom: у у - о - ъ - э - о - э э æ а ä а в з э е -

i u u - o - o - a - a a ä a v z e  
 a ä a v z e e - e i i - i  
 - e i i - i i i i u u - o - o - a - a a ä a v z e

e - e i i - i i i i u u - o - o - a - a a ä a v  
 i i i u u - o - o - a - a a ä a v  
 o - a - a a ä a v z e e - e i i - i i i i u u -

- a a ä a v z e e - e i i - i i i i u  
 z e e - e i i - i i i i u u - o - o - a - a a ä  
 - i i i i u u - o - o - a - a a ä  
 - o - o - a - a a ä a v z e e ...

u u - o - o - a - a a ä  
 a v z e e ...  
 a v z e e - ...