



1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.

Ju - bi - la - te De - o, Ju - bi - la - te De - o, Al - le - lu - ia!

choir



JUBILATE DEO

USING THIS CANON

Compiled for the Presto project
by Dr Róisín Blunnie

Dublin City University, 2023

FOR DEVELOPING YOUR POLYPHONIC SKILLS

This canon has a wide range. If desired, change the key to suit your own voice. Take care with tuning on the descending line in phrase 2 (bars 3–4). Keep the perfect 4th do'-so securely related to the overall tonality. You may need to 'lift' the la in bar 3 to allow a beautifully tuned so to flourish. Feel that the mi in bar 4 is the third degree of the key, and relate the re at the end of that bar to its harmonic function as part of a dominant chord. Enhance the tuning by ensuring onsets are prepared and longer notes have energy and shape, and create a majestic perfect 5th in the final phrase.

WITH YOUR CHOIR OR SINGING GROUP

Create three distinct two-bar phrases by shortening the end of the word 'Deo' that closes phrase 1 and phrase 2, leaving a slight gap (or taking a breath) before beginning the next phrase. This aids the energetic character and joyous mood of the piece.

Explore the effect of stressed and unstressed syllables in shaping the phrases. Place emphasis on the underlined syllables: Jubilate Deo, Alleluia.

This canon works well in two, four or six parts. Once the unison melody is learned confidently and securely, the journey to six parts can be achieved step by step, with a clear cue given for each entry. Ensure the 'u' vowel in 'Jubilate' and 'Alleluia' is unified across the choir to optimise the sound.

IN THE MUSIC LESSON

Experiment spatially with this canon by having six groups spaced at a distance around the room, each singing one of the parts and staying together by watching the conductor closely. If you have access to a room with a reverberant acoustic, enjoy the effect of singing in that space.

Add an extra challenge by 'scrambling' the parts, so that singers are not standing beside others singing the same part, but are concentrating on singing their own part accurately at the right time, while also aiming to create a beautiful, blended sound.

LEARN MORE

To explore challenges and solutions for tuning in this canon, see the 'Intonation Awareness' section of the Presto Choral Resources. To learn more about onsets, see the 'Visualising Vocal Sounds Using Spectrogram Technology' section.