

# *Growing Orbits*

*for Mixed Chorus, SSAATTBB*

*Don Freund*

(1990)

**Text from *The Book of Hours* by Rainer Rilke**

I live my life in growing orbits,  
which move out over the things of the world.  
Perhaps I can never achieve the last,  
but that will be my attempt.  
I am circling around God,  
around the ancient tower,  
and I have been circling for a thousand years,  
and I still don't know if I am a falcon, or a storm,  
or a great song.

*Freundworks Publishing*

# Growing Orbits

for Mixed Chorus, SSAATTBB

Don Freund

(1990)

Text from *The Book of Hours* by Rainer Rilke

*Unhurried, but with a continual sense of irrepressible movement  
and galactic sweep (♩ = ca. 72)*

4

5

*f, foreground\**  
I live my life

*f, foreground\**  
I live my life

*p, background\**  
I live my life, I live my life in grow - ing, grow -

*p, background\**  
I live my life, I live my life in grow - ing,

*f, foreground\**  
I live my life

*f, foreground\**  
I live my life

\* It is essential that the musical line and text of the **Cantus Firmus** (always in bold type) be projected with great clarity and strength. (Please see page 10.) In contrast, the music and text of the *background texture* (always in italics) should be unfocused, abstract, and only subliminally communicated to the audience. This is true even when the background lines reach a *forte* dynamic level near the end of the piece.

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7

8

9

*p*, background\* *f*, foreground\* *f*, foreground\* *p*, background\* *p*, background\* *f*, foreground\*

I live my life, which move out  
I live my life, which move out

in grow - ing or - bits I live my life in  
in grow - ing or - bits I live

ing or - bits, I live my life in grow - ing,  
grow - ing or - bits, which move out

in grow - ing or - bits *p*, background\* which move out  
in grow - ing or - bits I live my life in grow -

10

11

12

o - ver the things of the world.  
o - ver the things of the world.

grow - ing or - bits, *p*  
I live in

my life in grow - ing or - bits, grow - ing  
grow - ing or - bits, in grow - ing or - bits,

o - ver the things of the world.  
o - ver the things of the world.

ing or - bits mov - ing out, mov - ing out o -

*f* Per - haps I can nev-er a-chieve the last,  
*f* Per - haps I can nev-er a-chieve the last,  
*p* grow - ing or - bits, I live my life, my life in grow - ing or - bits,  
or - bits, I live my life in grow - ing  
*f* Per - haps I can nev-er a-chieve the last,  
*f* Per - haps I can nev-er a-chieve the last,  
grow - ing or - bits which move out o - ver the things of the  
ver, o - ver the things of the world. I

*p* I live my life in or - bits which move out  
*p* I live my life in grow - ing, grow - ing or - bits  
*f* but that will be my at - tempt.  
*f* or - bits, that will be my at - tempt.  
*p* live my life in grow - ing or - bits, I live my  
live my life in grow - ing or - bits,  
world. but that will be my at - tempt. in  
live that will be my at - tempt. in

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26

o - ver the things of the world. I can nev - er a -  
 o - ver the things of the world. I can nev - er a -  
*p* I live my life, I live my life, Per - haps I nev - er can a -  
 I live my life, I live my life, Per - haps I nev - er can a -  
 life in grow - ing or - bits which move out, Per - haps I can  
 in grow - ing or - bits which move out, Per - haps I can  
 grow - ing or - bits which move out o -

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29

30

31

*p* chieve the last, but that will be my at -  
 chieve the last, but that will be, be  
 chieve the last, but that will be my at -  
 chieve the last, but that will be my at -  
 nev - er, nev - er a - chieve the last, I live my life,  
 nev - er, nev - er a - chieve the last, I live  
 ver the things of the world. of the world.

tempt. *p*  
 my at - tempt. *f* I am cir - cling a - round God, a -  
 tempt. *f* I am cir - cling a - round God, a -  
 I live my life in grow - ing,  
 my life, I live my life in grow -  
 I am cir - cling a - round God, a -  
 I am cir - cling a - round God, a -

*f* in grow - ing, and I have been  
 my life in grow - ing and I have been  
 round the an - cient tower, I live my life in  
 round the an - cient tower, *p*  
 grow - ing or - bits, and I have been  
 ing, in grow - ing or - bits, which move out  
 round the an - cient tower, and I have been  
 round the an - cient tower, *p* I live my life

38 39 40

cir - cling for a thou - sand years,  
 cir - cling for a thou - sand years,  
 grow - ing, grow - ing or - bits which move out o - ver the  
 life in grow - ing, grow - ing or - bits, grow -  
 cir - cling for a thou - sand years,  
 o - ver the world. o - ver the world. years, o -  
 cir - cling for a thou - sand years, move out, move  
 in grow - ing, in grow - ing or - bits which move

41 42 43

world. o - ver the world. world. world.  
 ing or - bits which move out o - ver the world.  
 which move out o - ver the world. I am cir - cling,  
 ver the world. o - ver the world. I am  
 out o - ver the world.  
 out o - ver the world.

*mp* I am cir - cling  
*f* which move out, which move out  
*f* and I still don't know if I am a fal - con,  
 and I still don't know if I am a fal - con,  
*mp* I am cir cling a - round  
*f* cir cling, I am cir - cling, am  
 and I still don't know if I am a fal - con,  
 and I still don't know if I am a fal - con,

*mf* a - round God, a - round God, or *ff*  
*mf* o - ver the things of the world. or *ff*  
 or a storm, *mf* I am cir - cling,  
 or a storm, *f* a - round the an - cient *ff*  
*mf* God, a round the an - cient tower, or *ff*  
 cir - cling, *mf* cir - cling a - round God, or *ff*  
 or a storm, *mf* cir - cling a - round God,  
 or a storm, or a fal - con,



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a great song. *f* cir - cling,  
 a great song. *ff* or a great song.  
 grow - ing, cir - cling, or a great song  
 tower, mov - ing o - ver the things of the world. grow - ing or - bits,  
 a great song. *ff* or a great  
 a great song. *f* mov - ing o - ver the world.  
 the an - cient song. *f* song, a great song,  
 or the an - cient song. *f* or a great

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*f* a great song. *ff* *pp subito*  
 grow - ing or - bits, *f* song. *pp subito*  
 mov - ing o - ver the world. song. *ff* *p subito* *pp*  
 cir - cling, cir - cling, cir - cling, cir - cling...  
 song. *ff* grow - ing or - bits, *p subito* *pp*  
 cir - cling, cir - cling, *f* cir - cling, cir - cling...  
 or a great song. *ff* song. *pp subito*  
 song.

The **Cantus Firmus** is printed here as a single line.  
 In rehearsal, this line should be sung from beginning to end  
 by all the chorus in octaves to give the singers a better awareness  
 in performance of how their background phrases and segments  
 of the Cantus Firmus should be performed in the context of one grand line  
 which arcs through the piece.

I live my life in grow-ing or-bits which move out o-ver the things of the  
 world. Per-haps I can never a-chieve the last, but that will be my attempt.  
 I am cir- cling a-round God, a-round the an-cient tower, and I have been  
 cir- cling for a thou- sand years, and I still don't know  
 if I am a fal-con, or a storm, or a great song.



