

To Marcus McDaniel

# The Hippopotamus

T. S. Eliot

Kyle Gann  
1978-9

♩ = 100 With Protestant respectability

Voice

Piano

*mf*

7

*p*

The broad-backed hip-po-po-ta-mus rests

*p*

12

on his bel-ly in the mud; Al-though he seems so firm to us, He is mere-ly

*p*

17

*mf*

flesh and blood. Flesh and blood is weak and frail, sus-cep-ti-ble to ner-vous shock; While

*mf*

22

the True Church can ne-ver fail, For it is based u-pon a rock.

27

*p*  
The hip-po's fee-ble steps may err in com-pas-sing ma-

31

te-rial ends, While the True Church need ne-ver stir to ga-ther in its

35

di-vi-dends. The 'po-ta-mus can ne-ver reach the man-go on the

39

man - go tree; But fruit of po - me - gra - nate and peach re - fresh the Church from

43

o - ver sea. At

47

ma - ting time the hip - po's voice be - trays in - flec - tions hoarse and odd, But

51

ev' - ry week we hear re - joyce The Church at be - ing one with God.

The hip - po - po - ta - mus - 's day is passed in sleep; at

59

Slower *p* a tempo *f*

night he hunts; God works in a my - ste - rious way: The Church can sleep and feed at once.

64

*pp*

I saw the 'po - ta -

69

mus take wing as - cen - ding from the damp sa - van - nahs, And qui - ring an - gels

73 *ff*

round him sing the praise of God in loud ho - san - nas.

*ff*

Slight accel. ....

77 *a tempo ff*

Blood of the Lamb shall wash him clean And him shall hea - ven - ly

*ff*

8va

81 *Ritard. .... a tempo p*

arms en - fold, A - mong the saints he shall be seen per - for - ming on a harp of gold. He

*p*

Ritard. .... a tempo

shall be washed as white as snow, By all the mar - tyred

vir - gins kist, While the True Church re - mains be - low, Wrapt in the old mi -

as - mal mist.

December 1978 -  
January 1979  
Dallas, Texas

Ritard. ....