

Aldeburgh Carol

Text: Garth Bardsley

Blessed, Blessed is the child

No more than dust,
The tiny seed lies dormant in her hand.
Its precious secret, safely clasped within,
Shall be revealed when nurtured by the land.

Sheltered and nourished,
No raging storm can then, its course, impede
And from the earth a matchless gift springs forth;
A lovely flower where there was once a seed.

With love, each child, we must empower,
That he may bloom as does the flower.

September 2012 – Devizes

*First performance on 7 December 2012 in Aldeburgh Church,
given by soloists from the Old Royal Naval College Chapel Choir, Greenwich
and Aldeburgh Voices, directed by the composer.*

Duration c. 4 minutes

The Aldeburgh Carol

Garth Bardsley

Ben Parry

Tenderly and reverently ♩ = 88

p espress.

Bles - sed, Bles - sed, Bles - sed, Bles - sed,

Solo quartet

Bles-sed, Bles - sed is the child, Bles-sed, Bles - sed is the

p espress.

Choir

5

Child

child, the child.

Child

S. A. *p*

T. B. *p*

No more than dust, the ti - ny seed lies dor - mant in her

9 *mp*

Solo Bles-sed, Bles - sed is the child, Bles-sed, Bles - sed is the child

mp Bles - sed, Bles - sed, Bles - sed, Bles - sed Child

S. A. hand. Its *mp*

T. B. *mp*

14

S. pre-cious se - cret, safe-ly clasped with - in, Shall be re - vealed, shall be re -

A. pre-cious se - cret, safe-ly clasped with - in, Shall be re - vealed shall be re -

T. pre-cious se - cret, safe-ly clasped with - in, Shall be re - vealed shall be re -

B. pre-cious se - cret, safe-ly clasped with - in, Shall be re - vealed shall be re -