

# INSTRUMENTATION

The orchestration uses the same forces as the Bach *Magnificat*, with timpani replaced by percussion. It is designed so that it can be performed on either period or modern instruments.

2 Flutes

2 Oboes (both doubling Oboe d'Amore)

Bassoon

3 Trumpets in D

Percussion

Large Bass Drum; Small Bass Drum (with pedal); Tomtom (large); Tambourine; 2 Bells in G and D (Tubular Bells, or Hand-bells, or Hand-chimes, ad lib.); Suspended Cymbal; Tamtam; Sleigh-bells; 2 Triangles (differing in pitch); Desk Bell; Fly-swat; Dinner Gong; Washboard; Birch (Rute)

Chamber ('Continuo') Organ (or Electronic Keyboard/Synthesizer)

Strings

Duration: 60 minutes approx.

*Commissioned by the Summer Music Society of Dorset in celebration of its fiftieth anniversary.*

*First performed by Grace Davidson (soprano), Matthew Venner (alto), Jeremy Budd (tenor), Greg Skidmore (baritone), Ex Cathedra Choir and Baroque Orchestra, directed by Jeffrey Skidmore, at Sherborne Abbey, 9 June 2012.*

## RECORDING

*A Time to Dance* is recorded by Ex Cathedra, conducted by Jeffrey Skidmore, and is available on CD and as a digital download on the album 'A Time to Dance' on the Hyperion label (CDA68144).

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# A TIME TO DANCE

*Cantata for soloists, choir & orchestra*

## Texts and Sources

### PROCESSIONAL: Times and Seasons *choir*

To every thing there is a season,  
and a time to every purpose under the heaven:  
A time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;  
A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down,  
and a time to build up;  
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep,  
and a time to cast away;  
A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence,  
and a time to speak;  
A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war,  
and a time of peace;  
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn and a time to dance.

ECCLESIASTES 3: 1–3, 5–8, 4 (King James Version, 1611)

### PROLOGUE: Sunrise

#### 1. Out of the wood *solo bass*

Out of the wood of thoughts that grows by night  
To be cut down by the sharp axe of light, –  
Out of the night, two cocks together crow,  
Cleaving the darkness with a silver blow:  
And bright before my eyes twin trumpeters stand,  
Heralds of splendour, one at either hand . . .

EDWARD THOMAS (1878–1917), from *Cock-crow*

#### 2. Rise up *solo bass, choir*

Rise up, rise up,  
And, as the trumpet blowing  
Chases the dreams of men,  
As the dawn glowing  
The stars that left unlit  
The land and water,  
Rise up and scatter  
The dew that covers  
The print of last night's lovers –  
Scatter it, scatter it!

While you are listening  
To the clear horn,  
Forget, men, everything  
On this earth newborn,  
Except that it is lovelier  
Than any mysteries.  
Open your eyes to the air  
That has washed the eyes of the stars  
Through all the dewy night:  
Up with the light,  
To the old wars;  
Arise, arise!

EDWARD THOMAS (1878–1917), *The Trumpet*

### PART I: SPRING MORNING

#### 3. Awake *choir*

Awake, my heart, to be loved, awake, awake!  
The darkness silvers away, the morn doth break,  
It leaps in the sky: unrisen lustres slake  
The o'ertaken moon. Awake, O heart, awake!

Awake, the land is scattered with light, and see,  
Uncanopied sleep is flying from field and tree:  
And blossoming boughs of April in laughter shake;  
Awake, O heart, to be loved, awake, awake!

ROBERT BRIDGES (1844–1930), from *Awake, my heart*

#### 4. Infant Joy *solo soprano & choir*

"I have no name:  
I am but two days old."  
What shall I call thee?  
"I happy am,  
Joy is my name."  
Sweet joy befall thee!

Pretty Joy!  
Sweet Joy, but two days old.  
Sweet Joy I call thee:  
Thou dost smile,  
I sing the while,  
Sweet joy befall thee!

WILLIAM BLAKE (1757–1827), *Infant Joy*

#### 5. Dancing on the hill-tops *solo soprano*

Dancing on the hill-tops,  
Singing in the valleys,  
Laughing with the echoes,  
Merry little Alice.

If her father's cottage  
Turned into a palace,  
And he owned the hill-tops  
And the flowering valleys,  
She'd be none the happier,  
Happy little Alice.

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI (1830–94), from *Dancing on the hill-tops*

#### 6. Dance there *choir*

Dance there upon the shore;  
What need have you to care  
For wind or water's roar?  
And tumble out your hair  
That the salt drops have wet;  
Being young you have not known  
The fool's triumph, nor yet  
Love lost as soon as won.

O you will take whatever's offered  
And dream that all the world's a friend,  
Suffer as your mother suffered,  
Be as broken in the end.  
But I am old and you are young,  
And I speak a barbarous tongue.

W B YEATS (1865–1939), from *To a child dancing in the wind*

for Dione Digby

# A TIME TO DANCE

## PROCESSIONAL (optional): Times and Seasons

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-3, 5-8, 4, King Solomon (attrib.)

(translation: King James Version, 1611)

Alec Roth

### Recit.

(♩ = ca. 69) SOLO BASS (onstage)

To e-ve-ry thing there is a sea-son, and a time to e-ve-ry pur-pose un-der the hea-ven;

[Bells] *l.v.*

### Andante (♩ = ca. 48-52)

FULL CHOIR or SEMICHORUS, ad lib (approaching in procession)

7  
SOPRANO 1  
SOPRANO 2  
ALTO

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is

*l.v. (sempre)*

11  
plant-ed;

TENOR

BASS 1  
BASS 2

A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build

15

A time to cast a-way stones, and a time to ga-ther stones to - ge - ther, a time to em-

up;

18

-brace, and a time to re-frain from em-brac-ing;

a time to get, and a time to lose; a time to

22

A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep si-lence, and a time to

keep, and a time to cast a - way;

27

speak;

a time to

a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace;

32

(FULL CHOIR) **Molto rit.** CHOIR SIT  
Segue No. 1

weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance, a time to dance.

a time to dance.

# PROLOGUE: Sunrise

## 1. Out of the wood

from 'Cock-crow', Edward Thomas (1878-1917)

Recit. (tempo rubato)

SOLO BASS

*mp*

Out of the wood of thoughts that grows by night to be cut down by the sharp axe of

[Cello/Bass/BD]

*pp*

### 1A Più animato

light, - out of the night, two cocks to-ge-ther crow, cleav-ing the dark - ness with a sil - ver

### Attacca No. 2

blow: and bright be-fore my eyes twin trum-pet-ers stand, he-ralds of splen-dour, one at ei-ther hand...

## 2. Rise up

'The Trumpet', Edward Thomas (1878-1917)

CHOIR (still sitting)

SOPRANO & ALTO unison

niente

Animato (♩ = ca. 84-88)

Rise up, rise up, and, as the trum-pet blow-ing chas-es the dreams of men,

[Trumpets 2 & 3, stage right and stage left]

*mf*

[Violins]

*pp*