## **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).

# **CONTENTS**

Preface	iv
Texts	V
PROCESSIONAL: Times and Seasons	
from Ecclesiastes (King James version) solo bass & choir	1
PROLOGUE: Sunrise	
1 Out of the wood (Edward Thomas) solo bass	3
2 Rise up (Edward Thomas) solo bass, choir	3
PART I: SPRING MORNING	
3 Awake (Robert Bridges) <i>choir</i>	7
4 Infant Joy (William Blake) solo soprano & choir	13
5 Dancing on the hill-tops (Christina Rossetti) solo soprano	16
6 Dance there (William Butler Yeats) <i>choir</i>	18
7 Nothing is so beautiful (Gerald Manley Hopkins) solo soprano	23
8 Let them love (Anon, trans. Alec Roth) <i>choir</i>	24
PART II: SUMMER NOON	
9 In summer's heat (Ovid, trans. Christopher Marlowe) solo tenor	34
10 A something (Emily Dickinson) <i>choir</i>	38
11 Thirsty fly (William Oldys) solo tenor	41
12 Little fly (William Blake) <i>choir</i>	43
13 Come, let us go (Robert Herrick) solo tenor	46
14 Give all to love (Ralph Waldo Emerson) choir	47
PART III: AUTUMN EVENING	
15 O Autumn (William Blake) solo alto	57
16 Humdrum (Aphra Behn) choir (ladies)	58
17 Autumnal (John Donne) choir (gentlemen)	62
18 Fall, leaves, fall (Emily Brontë) choir	67
19 The Evening Star (William Blake) solo alto & choir	68
PART IV: WINTER NIGHT	
20 Deep midnight (John Donne) solo bass	72
21 Snowflakes (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow) choir	73
22 Dregs (Ernest Dowson) solo bass	78
23 A glee for winter (Alfred Domett) choir	80
24 Lights out (Edward Thomas) choir	88
EPILOGUE: Sunrise	
25 Elder by a year (John Donne) solo bass	92
26 The secret of the sun (Robert Bridges) soloists & choir	93
27 Love, all alike (John Donne) <i>choir &amp; soloists</i>	97
27 Love, an anne John Donne, wor O south	21
AFTERDANCE: Proper Exercise	
from Orchestra, or a Poem of Dancing (John Davies) soloists & choir	99

A Time to Dance was commissioned by the Summer Music Society of Dorset in celebration of its fiftieth anniversary. The commission was funded by grants from the Esme Fairbairn Foundation, an anonymous donor, and contributions from the following members of the Society:

Lady Acland Carolyn Lindsay
Simon & Alexander Allsebrook C P & K M Luxmoore
John Austin-Williams Bob Maddock & Jan Cuff

Susan Belgrave E G Maude
Bill Bennette Mrs J Melvin
Mr & Mrs Marcus Beresford Augusta Miller
Hibbert Binney Peter & Sue Mills

Mrs John Birrell
John Bowen
Stuart & Sylvie Moore

Lord & Lady Bradbury

Michael Butler

Stuart & Sylvie Moore
Andrew & Karen Morgan
Elisabeth Morse

Sue Cameron Mr & Mrs David Nabarro

Bryan Cassidy Mrs David Orr
Minnie Churchill Angelina Palmer
Dr Justin Clark Eve Palmer Nicoll
Simon & Helena Conibear Colin & Judy Patrick
Derek & Jennifer Coombs Lizzie Peckover
Lady Crauford James & Zara Percy

Lady Crauford James & Zara Per-Patricia Davy Nicholas Phillips Kelvyn & Sally Derrick Geoffrey Poole

Dione Digby David & Hilmary Quarmby

Christine Dipple F Radcliffe Sylvia Drinkwater Miss S Rees James D'Souza Ann & Tom Ridout Mrs J Edwards Venetia Ross Skinner Mrs Olivia Eliot Virginia Rumball Mr & Mrs David Evans David & Libby Russell Alan & Valerie Frost Stephen & Stella Scott Dodie Garnier Joanna Sebag-Montefiore

Barry & Patsy Glazier Ros & John Senior
Margaret Govan James Sexton
Oliver & Sue Simon

Mrs Sylvia Griffin Elisabeth Strachwitz Hamilton

Jeanette Gueterbock

Dierdre Guy

Wendy Hannam

Mrs Celia Harvey

Peter & Susan Hatherley

Sandra & Giles Sturdy

Philippa & Xerxes Talati

Scilla Tappenden

Dr Thomas H Taylor

Adam Tindall

Peter & Susan Hatherley Adam Tindal Richard Herbert Tollard Trust

Ben Heywood James & Charlotte Townshend
The Late Sir David & Lady Hirst John Travell

The Late Sir David & Lady Hirst John Travell
Geraldine Hobson Rupert & Zara Vaughan

The Late Rosemary Holland Jones Richard & Gaie Vickers
Nick & Par Hood Mrs Madeleine Webb

Nick & Pat Hood Mrs Madeleine Webb Ian & Gill Huntley Wilfrid & Sally Weld Christine Ingram Raymond Williams Mr & Mrs Allan James Elizabeth Wilsey

David Jenkins Stephen & Sylvia Wingfield Digby

Alan and Judi Jones Mrs G E S Woodhouse
Richard Keightley Mrs Gwen Yarker
Barbara Landymore Jonathan Yarker

I M Lang Mrs Elizabeth Young Patricia Lidsey

#### 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!

#### 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 chair

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.

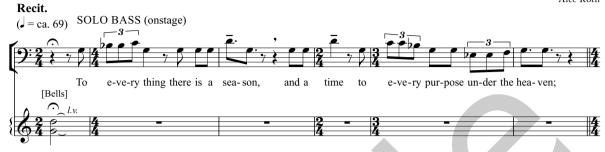
W B YEATS (1865-1939), from To a child dancing in the wind

## A TIME TO DANCE

# PROCESSIONAL (optional): Times and Seasons

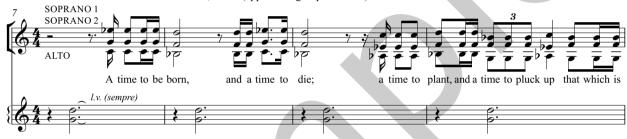
Ecclesiastes 3: 1–3, 5–8, 4, King Solomon (attrib.) (translation: King James Version, 1611)

Alec Roth

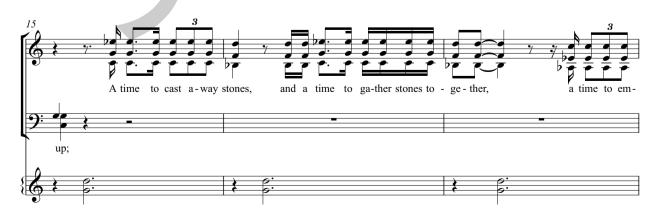


**Andante** (J = ca. 48-52)

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









### PROLOGUE: Sunrise

## 1. Out of the wood



## 2. Rise up

