

UNWATCH'D

For upper voice choir (SSAA)

Duration: c. 5 minutes

*Commissioned by the Young New Yorkers' Chorus Women's Ensemble.
First performed by The Young New Yorkers' Chorus Women's Ensemble
conducted by Michael Kerschner, St. Michael's Episcopal Church,
New York City, 29th April 2017.*

TEXT

Unwatch'd, the garden bough shall sway,
The tender blossom flutter down
Unloved, that beech will gather brown,
This maple burn itself away,

Unloved, the sun-flower, shining fair,
Ray round with flames her disk of seed,
And many a rose-carnation feed
With summer spice the humming air;

Till from the garden and the wild
A fresh association blow,
And year by year the landscape grow
Familiar to the stranger's child;

As year by year the labourer tills
His wonted glebe, or lops the glades;
And year by year our memory fades
From all the circle of the hills.

*And year by year our memory...
our memory...
Unloved, the sun-flower...
...fades...
...memory...*

Text from *In Memoriam* by Alfred Lord
Tennyson (1809–1892)

PROGRAMME NOTE

This piece embodies feelings I experienced the first time my grandmother looked straight into my eyes and did not recognise me. Her body is fit and well, but dementia has caused immeasurable damage.

The beginning of the piece recalls happy memories from my childhood with my grandmother. In the final section, the poem's text returns in fragmented flashbacks: 'And year by year our memory... our memory... fades... memory...'

Sample

Unwatch'd

Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809 – 1892)

Alexander Campkin

Tenderly (♩ = c. 76)

SOPRANO

mp

Un - watch'd, the gar - den bough shall sway,

ALTO

mp

Un - watch'd, the gar - den bough shall sway,

mp

Un - watch'd, the gar - den bough shall sway,

KEYBOARD
(rehearsal only)

Tenderly (♩ = c. 76)

mp

4

mf

The ten - der blos - som flut - ter down,

mf

— The ten - der blos - som flut - ter down,

mf

— The ten - der blos - som flut - ter down,

mf

The ten - der blos - som flut - ter down,

8

f

Un - loved, that beech will ga - ther brown, This ma -

f

Un - loved, that beech will ga - ther

f

Un - loved, that beech will ga - ther brown, This ma -

f

Un - loved, that beech will ga - ther brown, This ma -

14

- ple burn it - self a - way;

brown, This ma - - ple burn it - self a - way;

- ple burn it - self a - way;

- ple burn it - self a - way;