

# THE WORLD ON FIRE

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**for Mixed Choir (SSATBB)**

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**Phillip A. Cooke**

# THE WORLD ON FIRE

## for Mixed Choir (SSATBB)

(2015)

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### PERFORMANCE NOTES

- The Soprano I sections (b. 6 – 14 & 22 – 30) could be taken by soloists if desired
- The *mmm* sound is a resonant humming sound, perhaps with a slightly open mouth if necessary to create a fuller sound.
- The *Ab* sound is a generic ‘A’ sound such as one from the southern counties of England may say when pronouncing the word ‘after’

Commissioned by The Queen’s College, Oxford for their CD *Revelation*

*The World on Fire* was first performed on the 28 November 2015 by the Chapel Choir of The Queen’s College, Oxford at The Queen’s College, Oxford, UK with Owen Rees (conductor)

A recording of this piece is available on *A New Heaven* released on Signum Records, SIG475

**Duration:** 4 minutes

**Cover photograph:** [www.wallpapercave.com](http://www.wallpapercave.com)

**For more information:** [www.phillipcooke.com](http://www.phillipcooke.com)

## PROGRAMME NOTE

*The World on Fire* is a setting of two diary fragments from Jackie Stedall, former University Lecturer in the History of Mathematics and fellow of The Queen's College at Oxford University. I was commissioned to set her words for the Choir of Queen's in her memory for a forthcoming CD project. The short fragments are bucolic and pastoral and full of the wonderment and spiritual power of nature – the title of the work comes from the second diary fragment: "The world on fire, not the fire of destruction, but of energy, creation, love. Burning in every moment."

My setting is very simple, entirely homophonic and aims to enhance Jackie's thoughts at being overwhelmed by the beauty and vivacity of the natural world. The work is in two sections (corresponding to the two diary fragments): a reflective opening section in A minor in which the sopranos have the melody above a repeating choral accompaniment and a more vivid, luminous section in C# minor which tries to capture some of the inherent power of the 'energy, creation and love'.

It was a great pleasure and honour to set these beautiful words – I was lucky enough to be a junior fellow at Queen's at the same time as Jackie and she was always a kind and thoughtful person to me, and will no doubt be hugely missed by all she worked with her.

PAC

### TEXT

[November 2013]

Days glowing on the outside with sunshine, frost, and colour.  
Days glowing from the inside,  
Every moment a sun-spangled drop of water,  
A ripened berry, a quivering leaf.

[June 2014]

The world on fire, not the fire of destruction, but of energy, creation, love.  
Burning in every moment.

Jackie Stedall (1950 – 2014)

# THE WORLD ON FIRE

JACKIE STEDALL (1950 - 2014)

for Mixed Choir (SSATBB)

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PHILLIP A. COOKE (2015)

Teneramente e semplice (♩ = c.72)

Musical score for the first system of 'The World on Fire'. It features five vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The tempo is 'Teneramente e semplice' with a quarter note equal to approximately 72 beats per minute. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics 'Days glow - ing...' are repeated across the vocal staves. Dynamics include *pp* *sempre, legatissimo* and *mp espress.*. A rehearsal mark is present at the beginning of the piano part. A note indicates that the piano part is for rehearsal only. Performance instructions include breathing independently and regularly to achieve sustained notes, and a note that a soloist could take a part if desired.

\* *pp* *sempre*

*pp* *sempre, legatissimo*

*mp* *espress.*

Days

...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing...

mmm

Piano (rehearsal only)

\* Breathe independently and regularly to achieve sustained notes; See preface for more information.

+ Could be taken by a soloist if desired

Musical score for the second system of 'The World on Fire'. It features five vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics 'glow - ing on the out - side with sun - shine and frost... Days glow - ing on the out - side with' are present. Dynamics include *p* and *mf (non troppo)*. The piano part includes a rehearsal mark. The score continues with the vocal staves repeating the phrase '...glow - ing...'.

*p* *mf (non troppo)*

glow - ing on the out - side with sun - shine and frost... Days glow - ing on the out - side with

...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing...

...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing...

...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing...

(mmm)

poco rit. . . . .

4 13 *P* *sub. mf* *f*

(tutti)

sun - shine and frost... Days glow - ing on the out - side... Days glow - ing on the out - side... with

...glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing...

...glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing...

...glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing...

...glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing...

(mmm) ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing...

**||** **A tempo** (♩ = c.72)

19 *mp* *+ mf espress.*

col - our... Days glow - ing on the out - side... with

...glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing...

...glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing...

...glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing...

...glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing...

...glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing... ..glow - ing...

mmm Ah

+ Could be taken by soloists if desired

\* Breathe independently and regularly to achieve sustained notes; See preface for more information.

25 *p* *mf sub.* *p* (tutti) *mf cresc.*

sun - shine\_\_\_ and frost... Days glow - ing on the out - side\_\_\_ with sun - shine\_\_\_ and frost... Days

...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing...

...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing...

...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing...

(Ah)

**A tempo** (♩ = c.72)

31 *f* . . . *mf* . . .

glow - ing on the out - side... Days glow - ing from the in - side, ev - ry mo - ment\_\_\_ a sun span - gled

*mp cresc.* . . . *mf* . . .

...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...mo - ment... ...mo - ment...

*mp cresc.* . . . *mf* . . .

...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...mo - ment... ...mo - ment...

*mp cresc.* . . . *mf* . . .

...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...mo - ment... ...mo - ment...

*mp cresc.* . . . *mf* . . .

...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...glow - ing... ...mo - ment... ...mo - ment...

poco rit.

6  
37

*ff* *ecstatico*

solo

*pp* *sub.*

drop of wat - er, a rip - ened ber - ry... a rip - ened ber - ry, a

...mo - ment... ...mo - ment... ...mo - ment... ...mo - ment... ...mo - ment... a

...mo - ment... ...mo - ment... ...mo - ment... ...mo - ment... ...mo - ment...

...mo - ment... ...mo - ment... ...mo - ment... ...mo - ment... ...mo - ment...

...mo - ment... ...mo - ment... ...mo - ment... ...mo - ment... ...mo - ment...



A tempo (♩ = c.72)

poco accel.

43

tutti *p cresc.*

quiv - er - ing leaf.. a quiv - er - ing leaf. The world...

quiv - er - ing leaf... a quiv - er - ing leaf. The world... The

The world... The world.

The world... The world...

The world... The world...

The world... The world...

poco più mosso (♩ = c.80)

49 *f* *espress.* *mf* *f* 7

The world on fire, not the fire of des - truction, but of en - er - gy, cre - a - tion, of  
world on fire, not the fire of des - truction, but of en - er - gy cre - a - tion, of  
on fire, not the fire of des - truction, but of en - er - gy cre - a - tion, of  
The world on fire, not the fire of des - truction, but of en - er - gy cre - a - tion, of  
The world on fire, not the fire of des truction, but of en - er - gy cre - a - tion, of

rit.

Primo tempo (♩ = c.72)

Soprano I & II

54 *ff* *appass.* *pp* *sempre, legatissimo*

love... of love... of love... burn - ing... burn - ing...  
love... of love... of love... burn - ing... burn - ing...  
love... of love... of love... burn - ing... burn - ing...  
love... of love... of love... burn - ing... burn - ing...  
love... of love... of love... burn - ing... burn - ing...



...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...

...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...

**Solo Tenor**                      *p* *espress.*  
 Burn - ing in ev - 'ry mo - ment... in

**Tenor (gl. altri.)**  
 ...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...

(mmm)



rit. . . . .

...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...

...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...

ev - 'ry mo - ment...

...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...    ...burn - ing...

(mmm)