

WHITHER THOU GOEST



for Mixed Choir (SATB) & Organ

Phillip A. Cooke

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for Mixed Choir (SATB) & Organ

(2008)

PERFORMANCE NOTE

The solo sections may be taken by more singers if necessary
All organ stops and registrations are left to the discretion of the organist

For the Choir of The Queen's College

First performed by the Choir of The Queen's College with Owen Rees (conductor) and Charlie Phillips (organ) in the chapel of The Queen's College, Oxford on 30 May 2008

Duration: 6 minutes

Cover picture: 'Ruth and Naomi' (He Qi, 2001)

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PROGRAMME NOTE

Whither Thou Goest was written for the Choir of The Queen's College, Oxford University during my time there as a Junior Research Fellow in 2008. The text was chosen by the departing provost, Sir Alan Budd and is taken from the Book of Ruth. My setting aims to be dramatic with the building of tension over the long polyphonic, chromatic sections. This tension is resolved with apocalyptic bursts from the organ and strident choral sections. The work ends much as it began, with distant solo voices and soft organ dissonances.

PAC

TEXT

Intreat me not to leave thee,
or to return from following after thee;
for whither thou goest, I will go;
where thou lodgest, I will lodge:
thy people shall be my people,
and thy God be my God:
where thou diest, will I die,
and there will I be buried:
the Lord do so to me, and more also,
if ought but death part thee and me.

Ruth, Chapter 1 vs 16-17

for the Choir of The Queen's College

WHITHER THOU GOEST

RUTH, CHAPTER 1, vs 16-17

for Mixed Choir (SATB) & Organ

PHILLIP A. COOKE (2008)

Adagio sostenuto e liberamente (♩ = c.52)

Musical score for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Organ. The score is in 3/2 time and consists of four measures. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are currently silent, indicated by rests. The Organ part features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The right hand begins with a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then a half note B4. The left hand begins with a half note G3, followed by a half note F3, and then a half note E3. The organ part is marked *pp espress.*

Musical score for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Organ, starting at measure 5. The score is in 3/2 time and consists of four measures. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are currently silent, indicated by rests. The Organ part features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The right hand begins with a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then a half note B4. The left hand begins with a half note G3, followed by a half note F3, and then a half note E3. The organ part is marked *ppp*. Above the vocal staves, there is a double bar line, a box containing the letter 'A', and the tempo marking *rit. - - - - - A tempo*.

(breathe regularly, though independently to sustain note)

10 *ppp sempre*

(hmm) _____

Alto solo*

pp espress.

✓ *p* *pp*

In - treat me not to leave thee, or to re - turn from fol - lo - wing

(breathe regularly, though independently to sustain note)

Tutti

ppp sempre

(hmm) _____

Tenor solo*

pp espress.

✓ *p* *pp*

In - treat me not to leave thee, or to re - turn from fol - lo - wing

(breathe regularly, though independently to sustain note)

Tutti

ppp sempre

(hmm) _____

(breathe regularly, though independently to sustain note)

ppp sempre

(hmm) _____

* May be taken by more voices if necessary

af - ter thee; for whi - ther thou go - est, I will go; where thou lod -

af - ter thee; for whi - ther thou go - est, I will go; where thou lod -

p *pp* *p*

p *pp* *p*



gest, I will lodge: thy peo - ple will be my

gest, I will lodge: thy peo - ple will be my

pp *pp*

B

C

(Solo) *ppp*

Tutti *pp lontano*

peo - ple, ___ In - treat me ___

(Solo) *ppp*

Tutti *pp lontano*

peo - ple, ___ In -

pp



pp lontano

In - treat me ___ not to

pp

not to leave thee

pp

treat me ___ In - treat me ___

pp lontano

pp

In - treat me ___ In - treat me ___

31 *pp* 5

leave thee _____ or to re - turn _____

pp *pp*

_____ In - treat me _____ not to leave thee _____

pp *pp*

_____ not to leave thee _____ or to re -

pp *pp*

_____ In - treat me _____ In -



35 *pp* *pp* *pp*

from fol - lo wing af - ter thee; _____ In - treat me _____ I _____

pp *pp*

_____ or to re - turn _____ I _____ will go; _____

pp *pp*

_____ - turn _____ from fol - lo - wing af - ter thee; _____ for whi - ther thou

pp

treat me _____ for whi - ther thou go - est, _____

39

will go; I will lodge: shall be
 Thy peo - ple
 go - est, where thou lod - gest, Thy peo - ple
 where thou lod - gest, Thy peo - ple Thy



43

D

my peo - ple shall be my
 shall be my peo - ple shall be
 shall be my peo - ple my peo - ple
 peo - ple and thy God be my God:

Ped:

pp sempre (senza cresc.)

47

peo - ple my peo - ple

my peo - ple and thy God be my God: and thy God be my God: and thy God be my God:

and thy God be my God: and thy God be my God: and thy God

pp sempre (senza cresc.)

50

and thy God be my God: and thy God be my God: and thy God be my God: and thy God be my God:

and thy God be my God and thy God be my God and thy God be my God and thy God

and thy God be my God: and thy God be my God: and thy God be my God:

be my God: and thy God be my God: and thy God be my God: and thy God be

cresc.

cresc.

rit. - - - - - A tempo

mp *f* *sub. p* *ff* *maestoso*

God: and thy God be my God: and thy God be my God: _____

be my God and thy God be my God: _____

and thy God be my God: and thy God be my God: _____

my God: and thy God be my God: _____

mf *ff* *marc.*

mf *mf* *mf* *mf*

where thou di - est _____ will I

where thou di - est _____ will I

where thou di - est _____ will I

where thou di - est _____ will I

ff *marc.* *sffz* *sffz*

60 *ff sim.* *mf* _____ 9

die, _____ and there_ will I_

ff sim. *mf* _____

die, _____ and there_ will I_

ff sim. *mf* _____

die, _____ and there_ will I_

ff sim. *mf* _____

die, _____ and there_ will I_

ff marc. *sfz*

ff marc. *sfz*

64 *ff* poco accel. - - - - -

be bur- ied_____

ff

be bur- ied_____

ff

be bur- ied_____

ff

be bur- ied_____

ff marc. *ff marc.*

10 **F** A tempo

67 *f* *espress.* *p* *pp* ✓ *mf* *espress.*

the Lord do so to me, and more al - so the Lord do so

the Lord do so to me, and more al - so the Lord do so

the Lord do so to me, and more al - so the Lord do so

the Lord do so to me, and more al - so the Lord do so

sfz

sfz



G

Soprano solo*

71 rit. - - - - - (♩ = c.48) *pp* *espress. liberamente*

and thy God be my God: _____

(Tutti) *ppp* (breathe regularly, though independently to sustain note)

to me, and more al - so (gradually move vocal sound) (hmm)

(breathe regularly, though independently to sustain note)

to me, and more al - so (gradually move vocal sound) (hmm)

(breathe regularly, though independently to sustain note)

to me, and more al - so (gradually move vocal sound) (hmm)

(breathe regularly, though independently to sustain note)

to me, and more al - so (gradually move vocal sound) (hmm)

(gradually move vocal sound)

* May be taken by more voices if necessary

75

(Tutti)

Tutti* **pp** senza espress.

if

Tutti* **pp** senza espress.

if

Bass solo* **pp** espress, liberamente

and thy God be my God: _____

(Tutti)

PPP sempre



79

ought but death _____ part thee and me. if ought but death _____

ought but death _____ part thee and me. if ought but death _____

PPP sempre

* Gradually singers drop out leaving just solo at *

83

part thee and me. *ppp* part thee and me. *dim.* part thee

part thee and me. *ppp* part thee and me. *dim.* part thee



poco rit. - - - - -

87

and me. ** (Solo)* and me. and me. me.

and me. ** (Solo)* and me. and me. me.

92 (Tutti) *ppp* *poss.* *lunga*

A - men

A - men

A - men

A - men

Ped: *ppp* *poss.* *lunga*