WHITHER THOU GOEST

for Mixed Choir (SATB) & Organ

Phillip A. Cooke
WHITHER THOU GOEST
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*
WHITHER THOU GOEST

RUTH, CHAPTER 1, vs 16-17

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PHILLIP A. COOKE (2008)

Adagio sostenuto e liberamente ($\dot{d} = c.52$)

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Organ

pp express.

\[ \text{rit.} \quad A \quad \text{A tempo} \]

PPP
(breathe regularly, though independently to sustain note)

Alto solo*

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

(breathe regularly, though independently to sustain note)

Tenor solo*

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

(breathe regularly, though independently to sustain note)

* May be taken by more voices if necessary
after thee; for whither thou goest, I will go: where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people will be my
In treat me
not to leave thee
In treat me
In treat me
leave thee or to return

In treat me not to leave thee

not to leave thee or to return

In treat me

In treat me

from following after thee;

In treat me

or to return will go

return, from following after thee;

for whither thou

treat me for whither thou goest,
will go; will lodge; shall be

Thy people,

Thy people,

where thou lodged, Thy people,

where thou lodged,

Thy people,

my people shall be my people shall be

my people shall be my people

and thy God be my God:

Ped:

PP sempre (senza cresc.)
people my people

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 be my God:
A tempo

67

\( \text{f} \text{ express.} \quad \text{p} \quad \text{pp} \quad \checkmark \text{ mf express.} \)

the Lord do so to me, and more also the Lord do so

\( \text{f} \text{ express.} \quad \text{p} \quad \text{pp} \quad \checkmark \text{ mf express.} \)

the Lord do so to me, and more also the Lord do so

\( \text{f} \text{ express.} \quad \text{p} \quad \text{pp} \quad \checkmark \text{ mf express.} \)

the Lord do so to me, and more also the Lord do so

\( \text{f} \text{ express.} \quad \text{p} \quad \text{pp} \quad \checkmark \text{ mf express.} \)

the Lord do so to me, and more also the Lord do so

\( \text{pp} \text{ express. liberamente} \)

G

(Tutti)

and thy God be my God:

(to me, and more also (hmm) (gradually move vocal sound) (breathe regularly, though independently to sustain note))

\( \text{ppp} \)

(to me, and more also (hmm) (gradually move vocal sound) (breathe regularly, though independently to sustain note))

\( \text{ppp} \)

(to me, and more also (hmm) (gradually move vocal sound) (breathe regularly, though independently to sustain note))

\( \text{ppp} \)

(to me, and more also (hmm) (gradually move vocal sound) (breathe regularly, though independently to sustain note))

\( \text{ppp} \)

(to me, and more also (hmm) (gradually move vocal sound) (breathe regularly, though independently to sustain note))

\( \text{ppp} \)

(to me, and more also (hmm) (gradually move vocal sound) (breathe regularly, though independently to sustain note))

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(to me, and more also (hmm) (gradually move vocal sound) (breathe regularly, though independently to sustain note))

\( \text{ppp} \)

(to me, and more also (hmm) (gradually move vocal sound) (breathe regularly, though independently to sustain note))

\( \text{ppp} \)

(to me, and more also (hmm) (gradually move vocal sound) (breathe regularly, though independently to sustain note))

* May be taken by more voices if necessary
Ought but death part thee and me.

* Gradually singers drop out leaving just solo at *
poco rit.

part thee and me. part thee and me.

part thee and me. part thee

part thee and me.

and me. and me. and me. me.

and me. and me. and me. me.

and me. and me. and me. me.

and me. and me. and me. me.