

Commissioned by the Glasgow School of Art Choir, conducted by Jamie Sansbury,  
as part of the Composer Project

# Angel of the Battlefield

Seán Street (b. 1946)  
Clara Barton (1821–1912)

CECILIA McDOWALL

## I

**Simply** ♩ = c.104  
**p**

SOPRANO 1  
oh

SOPRANO 2  
**p**  
oh

ALTO  
**p**  
oh

TENOR

BASS

**for rehearsal only**  
**p**  
**Simply** ♩ = c.104

Duration: 12 mins

First performed by the Glasgow School of Art Choir, conductor Jamie Sansbury, in City Halls, Glasgow, on 27 May 2023.

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6

oh

oh

oh

*p* oh *mp* oh

*p* oh *mp* oh

11

*mp dolce* oh A shy girl, *poco*

*mp dolce* A shy girl, *poco*

*mp dolce* A shy girl, *poco*

*p* oh *mp* There

*p* oh *mp* There

*p* *mp dolce*

17

*mf* a shy girl made

*mf* a shy girl made

*mf* a shy girl made

*p* is a balm in Gi - le - ad.

*p* is a balm in Gi - le - ad.

*mf*

22

*f* strong, a shy girl made strong by com - pas - sion,

*f* strong, a shy girl made strong by com - pas - sion,

*f* strong, a shy girl made strong by com - pas - sion,

*mf* A shy girl made strong, made

*mf* A shy girl made strong, made

*f*

$mp$   $p$   
 ah  
 $mp$   $p$   
 ah ah ah  
 $mp$   $p$   
 ah  
 $mp$   $p$   $mf$  *espress.*  
 strong by com-pas - sion, ah staunch - ing war's  
 $mp$   $p$   
 strong by com-pas - sion, ah  
 $mp$   $mf$  *espress.*

$pp$   $p$   
 ah  
 $pp$   $p$   
 ah  
 $pp$   $p$   
 ah  
 $mp$   $p$   
 ah  
 $p$   
 wounds in the liv - ing, ah  
 $mf$   
 nurs -  
 $mp$   $p$   $mf$

## II

Expressive, but with energy ♩ = 50

S. 1 *mf* ah

S. 2 *mf* ah

A. *mf dolce* *mp* *mf*  
It's not, it's not, it's not so hard to be an an - gel,

T. *mf dolce* *mp* *mf*  
It's not, it's not, it's not so hard to be an an - gel,

B. *mf dolce* *mp* *mf*  
It's not, it's not, it's not so hard to be an an - gel,

Expressive, but with energy ♩ = 50

6 *p* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*  
bread and wa - ter, a sense of what it means.

*p* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*  
bread and wa - ter, a sense of what it means.

*p* *mp* *mf*  
you just need bread, wa - - ter, bread,

*p* *mp* *mf*  
you just need bread, ah

*p* *mp* *mf*  
you just need bread, ah

11 *f* *mf* *f*

— to be mor - - tal. ah

— to be mor - - tal. ah

wa - - ter, bread, a sense of what it means to be mor - tal. *f*

*mp* *mf* *f*

a sense of what it means to be mor - tal. *f*

*mp* *mf* *f*

a sense of what it means to be mor - tal. *f*

a sense of what it means to be mor - tal. *f*

16 *mf* *f* *f*

ah ah whe - ther it is

*mf* *f* *mf*

You must ne-ver so much as think whe-ther you like it or not, ah

*mf* *f* *mf* stagger breathing

You must ne-ver, ah

*mf* *f* *mf*

you like it or not, ah

*mf*

*f*

21

*mf* *f*

bear - a - ble or not; ah ex - cept the

*mf* *f*

ah think of a - ny-thing, ah

*f*

you must ne-ver (so much as) think of a - ny-thing ex-cept the need,

26

need, ah ah

ah ah

You must ne-ver, must ne-ver so much as think whe-ther you like it or not,

*f*

and how to meet it, ah whe-ther you

*f*

and how to meet it, ah whe-ther you

*f*

## III

Driving, energetic ♩ = 108

S. 1/S. 2 *unif. f* *mf* *f*  
 The Fires\_ of Fred - 'ricks - burg, the Fires\_ still blaze, the Fires\_ still

A. *f* *mf* *f*  
 The Fires\_ of Fred - 'ricks - burg, the Fires\_ still blaze, the Fires\_ still

T. *f* *mf* *f*  
 The Fires\_ of Fred - 'ricks - burg, the Fires\_ still blaze, the Fires\_ still

B. *f* *mf* *f*  
 The Fires\_ of Fred - 'ricks - burg, the Fires\_ still blaze, the Fires\_ still

Driving, energetic ♩ = 108

7 *mf* *f*  
 blaze\_ be - fore\_ my eyes, still blaze\_ be - fore\_ my eyes,

*mf* *f* *mf* *f*  
 blaze\_ be - fore\_ my eyes, still blaze\_ be - fore\_ my eyes, the

*mf* *f*  
 blaze\_ be - fore\_ my eyes, still blaze\_ be - fore\_ my eyes, the Fires still

*mf* *f*  
 blaze\_ be - fore\_ my eyes, still blaze\_ be - fore\_ my eyes, the Fires still

13 *mf* *f* *whispered with intensity*

the Fires of Fred-ricks-burg still blaze, the Fires of Fred-ricks-burg still blaze, still

*whispered with intensity*

Fires of Fred-ricks-burg still blaze, the Fires of Fred-ricks-burg still blaze, still blaze, the Fires, the

blaze, the Fires still blaze, the Fires still blaze be -

blaze, the Fires still blaze, the Fires still blaze be -

18

blaze, the Fires, the Fires of Fred-ricks-burg still blaze, the Fires of Fred-ricks-burg

Fires of Fred-ricks-burg still blaze, the Fires of Fred-ricks-burg still blaze be -

-fore my eyes, be - fore my eyes, be -

-fore my eyes, be - fore my eyes, be -

22

S. 1 *mf* *f*  
— still blaze be - fore my eyes. — The guns' sound

S. 2 *mf* *f*  
— still blaze be - fore my eyes. — The guns' sound

A. *mf* *f*  
-fore my eyes. — To fol-low the guns' sound

T. *mp* *mf* *f* *mf*  
To fol-low the guns' sound, — to

B. *mp* *mf* *f* *mf*  
-fore my eyes. — To fol-low the guns' sound, — to

(*mf*) *f* *mf*

28

*mp dolce*  
roads, —

*mp dolce*  
roads, —

*mf* *mp*  
a - long blood roads, —

*mp*  
fol - low the guns' sound a - long blood roads, —

*mp*  
fol - low the guns' sound a - long blood roads, —

*mp*

34

to stand ground be - tween, ground be -

to stand ground be - tween, ground be -

to stand, to stand ground be - tween, ground be -

to stand, to stand ground,

to stand, to stand ground,

mf f

mf f

mf f

mf f

mf f

39

The musical score is written for three vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor) and piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "tween bul - let, bul - let and hos - pi - tal, ah the Fires of Fredricksburg still blaze, the Fires of Fredricksburg still blaze, still". The piano part features a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes, and chords. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *(f) whispered, intense*.

- tween bul - let, bul - let and hos - pi - tal, ah

- tween bul - let, bul - let and hos - pi - tal, ah

- tween bul - let, bul - let and hos - pi - tal, ah

*(f) whispered, intense*

the Fires of Fredricksburg still blaze, the Fires of Fredricksburg

*(f) whispered, intense*

the Fires of Fredricksburg still blaze, the Fires of Fredricksburg still blaze, still

*mf*

44

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mf*

— still blaze be - fore my eyes, to be the one who came and saw and stayed.

*mf*

blaze, the Fires, the Fires of Fred-'ricks-burg, to be the one who came and saw and stayed.

*mf*

49

**allargando** *unis. mf whisper but crescendo with intensity* **a tempo**

*f* *mp*

S. 1/S. 2 the Fires of Fred-'ricks-burg still blaze.

*mf* *whisper but crescendo with intensity* *f* *mp*

A. the Fires of Fred-'ricks-burg still blaze. The shot that pierced,

*whisper* *f* *mp*

T. still blaze.

*whisper* *f* *mp*

B. still blaze. The shot that pierced,

**allargando** **a tempo**

*mf* *f* *mp*