# Composer's note

Harvest season is a special time of the year. Living as I do in quite a rural part of England, each year we become ever more aware of the passing of the seasons, of the weather patterns, and also of the changing colours and textures of the land around us. After the challenges that we have all faced in 2020 and 2021, I wanted to write a simple expression to reflect on some thoughts of how the concept of harvest might relate to us all as we move forward, through sustainability, community, giving, hope, care, and, perhaps most importantly, thankfulness.

I was not specifically looking to write a stand-alone work, but rather a piece that could be equally performed as one or simply delved into and movements or hymns sung separately. It was written for the Royal School of Church Music Celebration Day, held at Durham Cathedral on 9 October 2021, as part of a day to celebrate what it means to sing together. I am grateful to Hugh Morris, Director of the RSCM, to Daniel Cook, Master of the Choristers and Organist of Durham Cathedral, and to my dear friend who supported the creation of this work.

Duration: c.26 minutes

This note may be reproduced as required for programme notes.

### **Texts**

These texts and melodies may be reproduced as required for programme notes and to allow audience/congregation participation in the hymns during a performance of *The Song of Harvest*.

#### 1. Hymn: Come, ye thankful people, come

Music: Bob Chilcott; Words: Henry Alford (1810-71)

#### **MORRIS**



- 1. Come, ye thankful people, come,
  Raise the song of harvest-home!
  All be safely gathered in,
  Ere the winter storms begin;
  God, our Maker, doth provide
  For our wants to be supplied;
  Come to God's own temple, come;
  Raise the song of harvest-home!
- 3. For the Lord our God shall come, And shall take his harvest home; From his field shall purge away All that doth offend, that day; Give his angels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast, But the fruitful ears to store In his garner evermore.
- 2. We ourselves are God's own field,
  Fruit unto his praise to yield;
  Wheat and tares together sown,
  Unto joy or sorrow grown;
  First the blade and then the ear,
  Then the full corn shall appear;
  Grant, O harvest Lord, that we
  Wholesome grain and pure may be.
- 4. Then, thou Church triumphant, come,
  Raise the song of harvest-home;
  All be safely gathered in,
  Free from sorrow, free from sin,
  There for ever purified
  In God's garner to abide;
  Come, ten thousand angels, come,
  Raise the glorious harvest-home!

#### 2. This is the day

Psalm 118: 24, 28-9

This is the day which the Lord hath made: we will rejoice and be glad in it. Thou art my God, and I will thank thee: thou art my God, and I will praise thee. O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious: and his mercy endureth for ever.

#### 3. Hymn: For the beauty of the earth

*Music: Bob Chilcott; Words: F. S. Pierpoint (1835–1917)* 

#### **EXON**



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- 1. For the beauty of the earth,
  For the beauty of the skies,
  For the love which from our birth
  Over and around us lies:
  Christ our God, to thee we raise
  This our sacrifice of praise. [repeat]
- 3. For the joy of human love,
  Brother, sister, parent, child,
  Friends on earth, and friends above,
  For all gentle thoughts and mild:
  Christ our God, to thee we raise
  This our sacrifice of praise. [repeat]
- 2. For the beauty of each hour
  Of the day and of the night,
  Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r,
  Sun and moon and stars of light:
  Christ our God, to thee we raise
  This our sacrifice of praise. [repeat]
- 4. For each perfect gift of thine
  To our race so freely giv'n,
  Graces human and divine,
  Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n:
  Christ our God, to thee we raise
  This our sacrifice of praise. [repeat]

#### 4. Gratitude

Henry van Dyke (1852-1933)

Whatever gifts and mercies in my lot may fall, I would not measure As worth a certain price in praise, or great or small; But take and use them all with simple pleasure.

For when we gladly eat our daily bread, we bless The Hand that feeds us; And when we tread the road of Life in cheerfulness, Our very heart-beats praise the Love that leads us.

#### 5. Hymn: Pray that Jerusalem may have peace

Music: Bob Chilcott; Words: Scottish Psalter (1650)

PATE



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- Pray that Jerusalem may have
   Peace and felicity:
   Let them that love thee and thy peace
   Have still prosperity.
- 3. Now, for my friends' and brethren's sake, Peace be in thee, I'll say;
  And for the house of God our Lord
  I'll seek thy good alway.
- Therefore I wish that peace may still Within thy walls remain, And ever may thy palaces Prosperity retain.

#### 6. King of Glory, King of Peace

George Herbert (1593–1633), from The Temple (1633)

King of Glory, King of Peace,
I will love thee:
And that love may never cease,
I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
Thou hast heard me:
Thou didst note my working breast,
Thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing thee,
And the cream of all my heart
I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried,
Thou didst clear me;
And alone, when they replied,
Thou didst hear me.

Sev'n whole days, not one in sev'n, I will praise thee. In my heart, though not in heav'n, I can raise thee.

#### 7. Hymn: Through all the changing scenes of life

*Music: Bob Chilcott; Words: Nahum Tate (1652–1715) and Nicholas Brady (1659–1726),* New Version of the Psalms of David (1696)

#### **MANNERS**



- Through all the changing scenes of life, In trouble and in joy, The praises of my God shall still My heart and tongue employ.
- 3. The hosts of God encamped around The dwellings of the just;
  Deliv'rance he affords to all
  Who on his succour trust.
- Fear him, ye saints, and you will then Have nothing else to fear; Make you his service your delight, Your wants shall be his care.
- 8. Consider

Christina Rossetti (1830-94)

Consider

The lilies of the field whose bloom is brief: We are as they; Like them we fade away, As doth a leaf.

Consider

The sparrows of the air of small account: Our God doth view Whether they fall or mount, He guards us too.

- O magnify the Lord with me, With me exalt his name; When in distress to him I called, He to my rescue came.
- 4. O make but trial of his love, Experience will decide How blest they are, and only they, Who in his truth confide.
- To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, The God whom we adore, Be glory, as it was, is now, And shall be evermore. Amen.

Consider

The lilies that do neither spin nor toil, Yet are most fair: What profits all this care And all this coil?

Consider

The birds that have no barn nor harvest-weeks; God gives them food: Much more our Father seeks To do us good.

#### 9. Hymn: Now thank we all our God

Music: Bob Chilcott; Words: Martin Rinkart (1586–1649), trans. Catherine Winkworth (1827–78)



- 1. Now thank we all our God,
  With heart and hands and voices,
  Who wondrous things hath done,
  In whom this world rejoices;
  Who from our mother's arms
  Hath blessed us on our way
  With countless gifts of love,
  And still is ours today.
- 3. All praise and thanks to God
  The Father now be given,
  The Son, and him who reigns
  With them in highest heaven,
  The One eternal God,
  Whom earth and heav'n adore;
  For thus it was, is now,
  And shall be evermore. Amen.

2. O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

# The Song of Harvest

## 1. Hymn: Come, ye thankful people, come

Henry Alford (1810–71)

BOB CHILCOTT



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## 2. This is the day

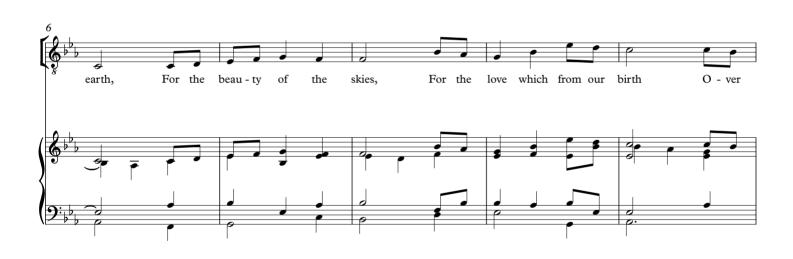
Psalm 118: 24, 28–9 BOB CHILCOTT

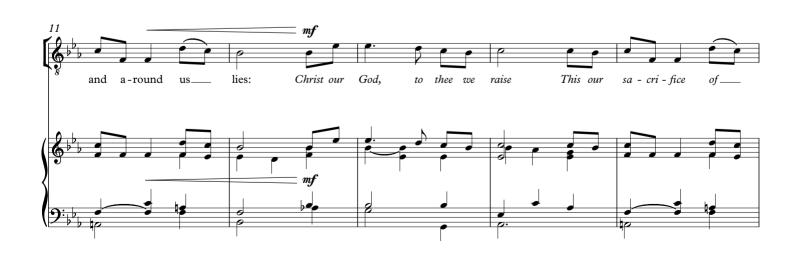


## 3. Hymn: For the beauty of the earth

#### F. S. Pierpoint (1835–1917)

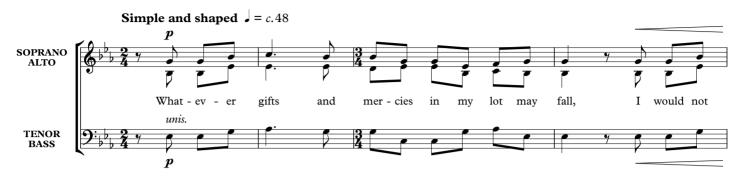


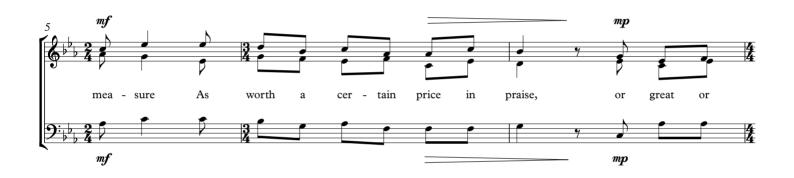


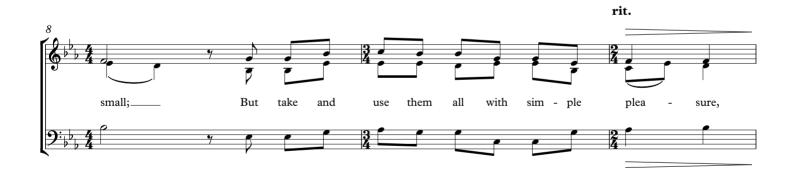


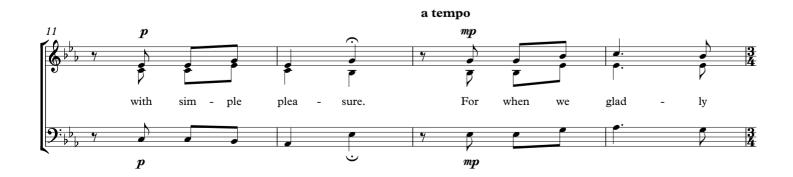
### 4. Gratitude

Henry van Dyke (1852–1933)









## 5. Hymn: Pray that Jerusalem may have peace

Scottish Psalter (1650)

BOB CHILCOTT



## 6. King of Glory, King of Peace

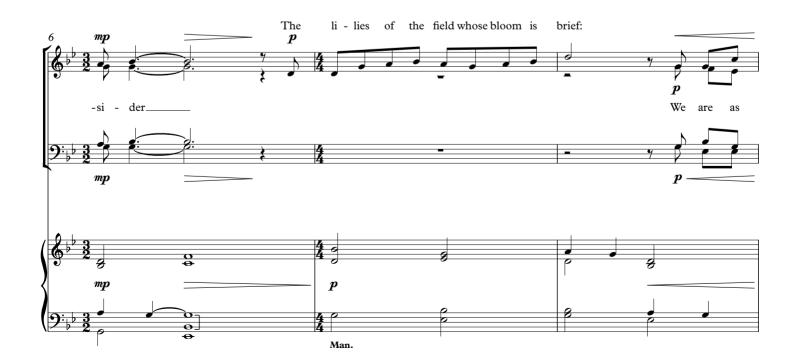
George Herbert (1593–1633) from *The Temple* (1633)



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