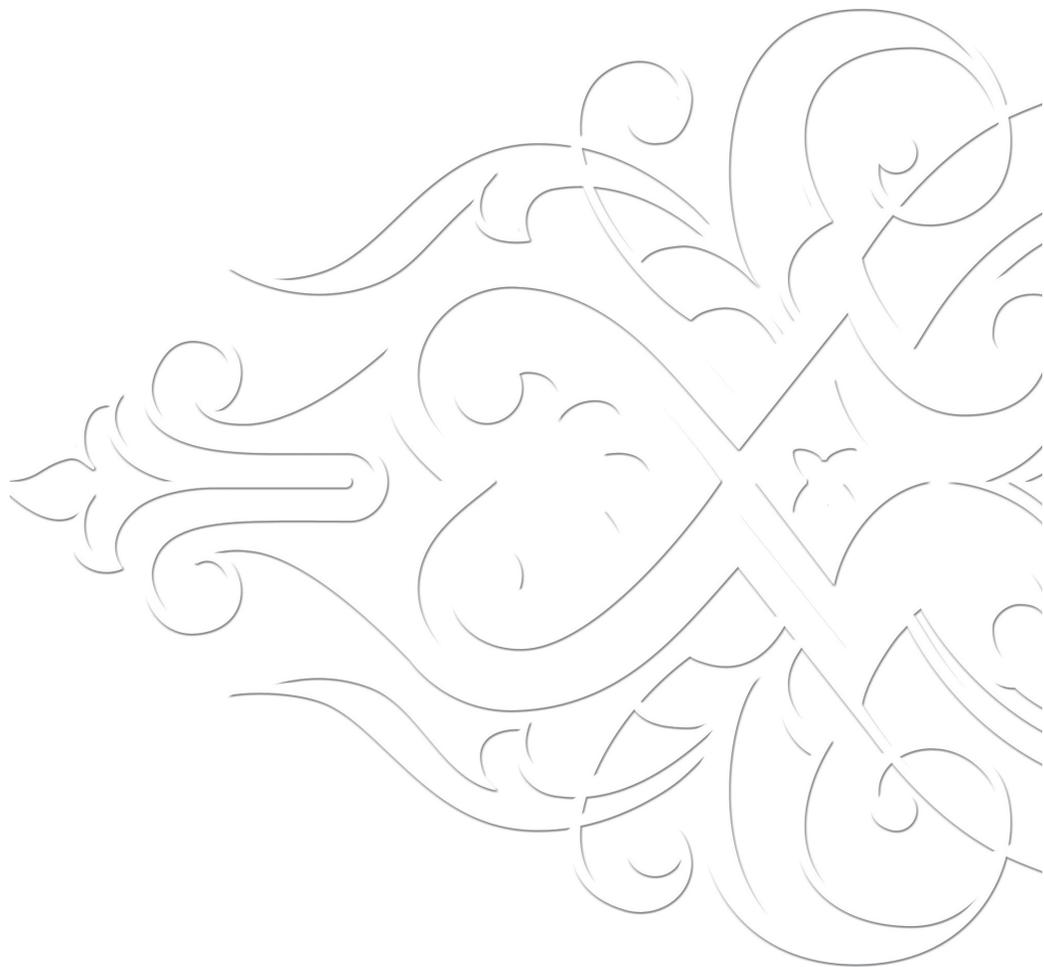




BEAMISH

The Holy Tree

for SATB and Organ



EP 73804

SALLY BEAMISH

The Holy Tree

for SATB and Organ

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THE HOLY TREE

This piece was inspired by a stained glass window, specially commissioned by the Dutch Church from Thomas Denny, which references the Tree of Life in its imagery. This brought to mind Yeats' poem 'The Two Trees', and particularly the opening section.

I have used the word 'beloved', and the gentle motif it conjured up for me, as a refrain throughout the setting. The shifting, vibrant colours of the glass, and of the poem, are reflected in the harmonies and rising vocal lines.

from *The Two Trees*

Beloved, gaze in thine own heart,
The holy tree is growing there;
From joy the holy branches start,
And all the trembling flowers they bear.
The changing colours of its fruit
Have dowered the stars with merry light;
The surety of its hidden root
Has planted quiet in the night;
The shaking of its leafy head
Has given the waves their melody,
And made my lips and music wed,
Murmuring a wizard song for thee.

W, B. Yeats

Duration: approx. 4' 30"

Commissioned for the 475th anniversary of the Dutch Church in London and first performed on 26 July 2025 at the Dutch Church, by a vocal ensemble directed by Greg Hallam, with David Titterington, organ

The Holy Tree

W. B. Yeats

Sally Beamish

Andante $\text{♩} = 62$

Soprano
mp Be - lo - ved. *mp* Be - lo - ved. *mf* gaze in thine own heart, *f*

Alto
mp Be - lo - ved, *mp* Be - lo - ved, *mf* gaze *p* Be - lo - ved, Be - lo - ved,

Tenor
mp Be - lo - ved, *mp* Be - lo - ved, *mf* gaze *p* Be - lo - ved, Be - lo - ved,

Bass
mp Be - lo - ved, *mp* Be - lo - ved, *mf* gaze *p* Be - lo - ved, Be - lo - ved,

Organ
III *p*
I Quintadena
16'

6 *mp* Be - lo - ved, *mf* Be - lo - ved, *f* gaze in thine own heart,

mp The ho - ly
mp The ho - ly

III

12

mf \leftarrow *f*

From joy the ho - ly bran - ches start,

mf \leftarrow *f*

From joy the ho - ly bran - ches start,

mf *f*

tree is gro-wing there; From joy the ho - ly bran - ches start,

mf *f*

tree is gro-wing there; From joy the ho - ly bran - ches start,

16

p \leftarrow *mp* rit. - - - - -

— And all the trem-bling flowers they bear.

p \leftarrow *mp*

— And all the trem-bling flowers they bear.

p \leftarrow *mp*

— And all the trem-bling flowers they bear.

p \leftarrow *mp*

— And all the trem-bling flowers they bear.

I *rit.* - - - - -

20 - - - - - Un poco piu mosso ♩ = 68

mf
The chang - ing co-lours of its fruit

- - - - - Un poco piu mosso ♩ = 68

mp

24

mp *f*
Have dowered the stars with mer - ry light;
mer - ry light;
The sure - ty
The sure - ty

rit. - - - - -

pp
Has plan-ted qui-et in the night; _____

pp
Has plan-ted qui-et in the night; _____

pp
of its hid-den root _____ Has plan-ted qui-et in the night; _____

pp
of its hid-den root _____ Has plan-ted qui-et in the night; _____

rit. - - - - -

34 **Tempo I** ♩ = 62

p Be - lo - ved, Be - lo - ved, *mf* gaze in _____ thine own_ heart,

p Be - lo - ved, Be - lo - ved, *mf* gaze Be - lo - ved, Be - lo - ved,

p Be - lo - ved, Be - lo - ved, *mf* gaze Be - lo - ved, Be - lo - ved,

p Be - lo - ved, Be - lo - ved, *mf* gaze Be - lo - ved, Be - lo - ved,

Tempo I ♩ = 62

39

The sha-king of its
The ho - ly tree is gro-wing there; The

The ho - ly tree is gro-wing there;

42

lea - fy head me-lo - dy,
sha-king of its lea-fy head Has given the waves their me-lo - dy,

And made my lips and mu - sic wed, Mur-mur - ing

And made my lips and mu - sic wed, Mur-mur - ing

mf *pp*

Mur-mur - ing a wi-zard song for thee.

Mur-mur - ing Mur-mur - ing a wi-zard song for thee.

Mur-mur - ing a wi-zard song for thee.

Mur-mur - ing Mur-mur - ing a wi-zard song for thee.

pp *mp* *cresc.* II



Photo © Ashley Coombes

Sally Beamish

Sally Beamish (b. 1956) studied viola at the Royal Northern College of Music before focusing on composition and moving to Scotland, where she lived for many years. Her music embraces many influences, particularly jazz and Scottish traditional music, and she has written for numerous soloists including Steven Isserlis, James Crabb, Håkan Hardenberger, Branford Marsalis and Tabea Zimmermann. Her string quartet for the Elias Quartet, *Reed Stanzas*, received its premiere at the 2011 BBC Proms and won a Royal Philharmonic Society Award. In 2018 Beamish was awarded the British Composer Award for Inspiration in recognition of her long and distinguished career.

Sally Beamish (*1956) studierte zunächst Viola am Royal Northern College of Music, ehe sie sich der Komposition zuwandte und nach Schottland zog, wo sie viele Jahre lang lebte. Ihre Musik vereint vielfältige Einflüsse, insbesondere aus dem Jazz und der schottischen Volksmusik. Sie schuf zahlreiche Werke für Solisten wie Steven Isserlis, James Crabb, Håkan Hardenberger, Branford Marsalis und Tabea Zimmermann. Ihr Streichquartett *Reed Stanzas* für das Elias Quartet wurde 2011 bei den BBC Proms uraufgeführt und mit einem Royal Philharmonic Society Award ausgezeichnet. In Anerkennung ihrer langen und erfolgreichen Laufbahn wurde Beamish im Jahr 2018 der British Composer Award für Inspiration verliehen.

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