

## SNOWFLAKES

Out of the bosom of the Air,  
    Out of the cloud-folds of her garments shaken,  
Over the woodlands brown and bare,  
    Over the harvest-fields forsaken,  
    Silent, and soft, and slow  
    Descends the snow.

Even as our cloudy fancies take  
    Suddenly shape in some divine expression,  
Even as the troubled heart doth make  
    In the white countenance confession,  
    The troubled sky reveals  
    The grief it feels.

This is the poem of the air,  
    Slowly in silent syllables recorded;  
This is the secret of despair,  
    Long in its cloudy bosom hoarded,  
    Now whispered and revealed  
    To wood and field.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–82)

### INSTRUMENTATION:

The accompaniment is scored for either 2 Flutes and Bass Drum or Organ. Other solutions are possible, providing that the gentle and mysterious atmosphere is preserved, as on the recording (see below for details). For example, the Flutes might be replaced by Harp or by pizzicato Violins; if a manuals-only Organ is used, the pedal part might be played on either Double Bass or Bass Drum (or even both); or the Organ itself might be replaced by electronic Keyboards.

DURATION: 2' 40" approx.

The original version of *Snowflakes* formed part of the 'Winter Night' section of the cantata *A Time to Dance* for soloists, choir and orchestra (EP 73023), commissioned by the Summer Music Society of Dorset in celebration of its 50th anniversary, and first performed by Ex Cathedra, conducted by Jeffrey Skidmore at Sherborne Abbey, 9 June 2012.

This stand-alone version was first sung by the Ex Cathedra Choir with Andrew Fletcher (organ), conducted by Jeffrey Skidmore, at their 'Christmas Music by Candlelight' concert at St John's Smith Square, London, 13 December 2012.

RECORDING: *Snowflakes* is recorded by Ex Cathedra, conducted by Jeffrey Skidmore, and is available on CD and as a digital download on the album 'A Time to Dance' on the Hyperion label (CDA68144).

for Jeffrey Skidmore and Ex Cathedra

# SNOWFLAKES

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Alec Roth

from *A Time to Dance*

for  
Choir (SSATBB)  
with  
accompaniment\*

\*(see note on Instrumentation in Preface)

**Lento** (♩ = ca. 48-50)

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto

Tenor

Bass 1

Bass 2

Flute 1 or Organ Manual I (8' flute) or Harp

Flute 2 or Organ Manual II (8' flute) or Harp

Bass Drum or Organ Pedal (soft 16' + 32'?)  
(and/or Double Bass)

*p* sotto voce

*p* sotto voce

*p* sotto voce

*p* sotto voce

*ppp* (sempre)

[Bass Drum - with the softest beater and let vibrate]

[Organ pedal - hold a little longer in a dry acoustic]

[Double Bass - pizzicato and let vibrate]