

The Sleeping Soul

St Mechthild of Magdeburg (c.1207–c.1297)

Judith Bingham

$\text{♩} = 52$

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Organ

8' (organ blending with voices until bar 15)

16', 8'

6

S.

A.

T.

B.

Org.

mp

p

mm

11

S. *mf* mm ah

A. *mp* *mf* mm ah

T. *mp* *mf* mm ah

B. *mf* ah

Org. *mf*

16

S. *mf* Where

A. *mf* Where

T. *mf* Where are you fool-ish soul?

B. *mf* Where are you fool-ish soul? where? where?

Org. not stacc. 8', 4' *mf*

The Sleeping Soul

Where are you, foolish soul? Sleeping since childhood.

Now the light of true love wakens you, and you see how God is All in All.

Lord, you are the sun of all eyes, the joy of all ears, the voice of all words, the teacher of all wisdom, the love in all life, and the order in all being.

God draws out the sweetest music from the strings of the soul,

Rejoice eternally!

All the strings of the soul will sound when they are strung in love,

When the holy spirit sounds the strings, the music shall sound as sweet as honey.

Love, Your light is radiant in the soul. Your wisdom is infinite, Your beauty inconceivable, Your being perfect, Your riches great, Your work faithful and holy.

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Duration: c. 6 minutes

*Commissioned by the Bath Abbey Music Society to celebrate the
20th anniversary of the Abbey Girls Choir in memory of Ms Nesta Raisey*

*First performed by the Bath Abbey Choir conducted by
Huw Williams on 23 September 2017*