

## INSTRUMENTATION

Flute/piccolo  
Clarinet/bass clarinet  
Horn  
Violin  
Double bass  
Harp  
Percussion

## CHARACTERS

Elisa, A Prophet . . . . . Bass Baritone  
Gehazi, His Servant. . . . . Tenor  
Farmer . . . . . Baritone  
The Farmer's Wife (Woman of Shunem) . . . . . Soprano  
Oldest (1st) Harvester. . . . . Soprano  
Second Oldest (2nd) Harvester . . . . . Soprano  
Youngest (3rd) Harvester . . . . . Soprano  
Boy . . . . . (Non Singing)  
  
Chorus of Harvesters . . . . . Sopranos and Altos

Note: The parts of Elisha, Gehazi, the Farmer and the Farmer's wife (The Woman of Shunem) require professional level singers. The 1st Harvester part is similarly professional level. The second and third Harvesters can be sung by young women, teenage voices or trebles. The chorus is written for upper voices, either girls, women or trebles (or mixed), and where divided and may be distributed ad lib by the chorus teacher. The instrumental ensemble is written for professionals.

The Burning Boy can be performed fully or semi-staged. Charles Causley, the librettist (who wrote this libretto for me in 1983), had in mind a church opera in the miracle play tradition, but performance in church is not essential. My aim as composer was to create a work that involved the participation of non-professionals and the community alongside young and fully professional forces

Commissioned by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

# The Burning Boy

A Miracle Play for Music Theatre

Libretto by Charles Causley

## Prologue

Music by Stephen McNeff

*The Full Company sing the Prologue directly to the audience*

1  $\text{♩} = 84$

Piano *p*

3 *p*

5 *p*

7 *f*

Harv. & Chorus

With - in the seed, a seed, with - in the word a word, that

Piano *p*

9

Harv. & Chorus

when it is full grown, that when its voice is heard, shall

Piano *f*