

*Commissioned by the Dean and Chapter of The Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban  
in celebration of the 900th anniversary of the consecration of the Abbey Church in 1115*

*First performed by the St Albans Cathedral Choir, directed by Andrew Lucas,  
at Solemn Evensong, 18 October 2015*

Duration: ca. 4:30

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| 1 King of Glory, King of Peace,<br>I will love Thee;<br>And that love may never cease,<br>I will move Thee.          | 5 Thou grew'st soft and moist with tears,<br>Thou relentedst;<br>And when Justice called for fears,<br>Thou dissentedst. |
| 2 Thou hast granted my request,<br>Thou hast heard me.<br>Thou didst note my working breast,<br>Thou hast spared me. | 6 Seven whole days, not one in seven,<br>I will praise Thee.<br>In my heart, though not in heaven,<br>I can raise Thee.  |
| 3 Wherefore with my utmost art<br>I will sing Thee;<br>And the cream of all my heart<br>I will bring Thee.           | 7 Small it is in this poor sort<br>To enrol Thee.<br>E'en eternity is too short<br>To extol Thee.                        |
| 4 Though my sins against me cried,<br>Thou didst clear me;<br>And alone, when they replied,<br>Thou didst hear me.   | George Herbert (1593–1633)   |

#### COMPOSER'S NOTE

I was introduced to George Herbert's poems by my friend and artistic collaborator Vikram Seth. To my surprise I found that I already knew some of them by heart, through singing them as a boy in daily school assembly – including this one. The rather jolly hymn-tune had an eight-line metre, so Herbert's four-line verses had been paired to fit, but since the poem has only seven, one of them was omitted. The missing fifth verse is to my mind the loveliest. Along with the fourth it lies at the heart of the poem's meditation on love, forgiveness and reconciliation. The poem was surely written to be sung (the words are simple and direct, the rhythms plain and insistent), and I can imagine Herbert singing it to his own lute accompaniment. The lute song is a good medium for exploring the subtleties of a text. A hymn tune has a different job to do, and in my case it had succeeded, as the words were etched in my memory. For my choral setting, I have restored Herbert's fifth verse, and have tried to give his words a musical context which will encourage contemplation in both singers and listeners.

for Crystal Pearce

# I Will Move Thee

unaccompanied choir SSATBB

George Herbert

Alec Roth

**Andante risoluto** (♩ = ca. 66-69?)

**Treble (Soprano 1)**  
Solo *p*  
I will move thee.

**Mean (Soprano 2)**  
Solo *p*  
I will

**Alto**  
Una voce *pp*  
Tutti *pp*  
mm

**Tenor**  
Una voce *pp*  
Tutti *pp*  
mm

**Bass**  
Una voce *pp*  
Tutti *pp*  
mm

8

**Tr**  
Tutti *mp* **1**  
King of glo-ry, king of peace, I will love thee;

**M**  
move thee.

**A**  
*pp sotto voce*  
I will move thee. *pp* mm *p sotto voce*  
I will love

**T**  
*pp sotto voce*  
I will move thee. *pp* mm *p sotto voce*  
I will love thee.

**B**  
*pp sotto voce*  
I will move thee. *pp* mm *p sotto voce*  
I will

43 5

Tr *mp*  
move thee. Thou didst hear me.

M *mp* *mp*  
move thee. Thou didst hear me. Thou grew'st soft and moist with

A *mp* *pp* (gently pulsing)  
move thee. Thou didst hear me. O \*(l)o  
[almost closed]

T *pp* (gently pulsing)  
-plied, thou didst hear me. O \*(l)o  
[almost closed]

B *pp* (gently pulsing)  
-plied, thou didst hear me. O \*(l)o  
[almost closed]

\* very gentle articulation,  
(touch lightly with the  
tip of the tongue)

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Tr *mp* *mf*  
and when jus - tice called for fears, thou dis - sent - edst. O

M *pp*  
tears, thou re - lent - edst; O O

A (sim.)  
o o o o o o o O  
[opening]

T (sim.)  
o o o o o o o O  
[opening]

B (sim.)  
o o o o o o o O  
[opening]