

Benjamin Britten

*Praise We
Great Men*

FOR SATB SOLOISTS, SATB CHORUS
AND ORCHESTRA

(1976)

Fragment
edited and orchestrated by
Colin Matthews

Text by Edith Sitwell

FULL SCORE

FABER *ff* MUSIC

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The first performance was given by Marie McLaughlin, Heather Harper, Philip Langridge and Richard Jackson, with the Philharmonia Chorus and Orchestra, conducted by Mstislav Rostropovich, at the Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Suffolk, on 11 August 1985

Praise We Great Men is recorded by Alison Hargan, Mary King, Robert Tear and Willard White, with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, conducted by Simon Rattle, on EMI CDS 754 2702

Duration: 7 minutes

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ORCHESTRA

3 flutes (II+III doubling piccolo)
2 oboes (II doubling cor anglais)
2 clarinets in B $\flat$ (II doubling bass clarinet)
2 bassoons
4 horns in F
2 trumpets in C
timpani
percussion (2 players):
bass drum, cymbals, vibraphone, glockenspiel
piano
harp
strings

Praise We Great Men

for Benjamin Britten

Praise we great men
From all the hearths and homes of men, from hives
Of honey-making lives.
Praise with our music those
Who bring the morning light
To the hearts of men, those households of high heaven. Praise

We those gods of sound
Who stole the frozen fire
From gilded hives upon Mount Parnassus,
[(Hives gilded by the light)—compressed
That honey-red fire into holy forms
That emulate those of the hives of heaven.] Praise

Those who can raise
Gold spirits of men from their rough Ape-dust, and who see
The glory, grandeur hidden in small forms:
The planetary system in the atom, and great suns
Hid in a speck of dust. Praise we the just—

Who are not come to judge, but bless
Immortal things in their poor mortal dress,
[And ripen lives and rule our hearts and rhythms,
Immortal hungers in the veins and heart.]

Praise be to those who sing
Green hymns of the great waters to the dry
And tearless deserts in the souls of men, [until
Under the fertilization of their singing breath
Even the grayness and the dust of Death
Seem the gray pollen of the long September heat. O praise

With lion-music such as that heard in the air
When the roaring golden lion that roams the heavens
Devours the dark, and multitudes and magnitudes respond

To that lion-music. . . And on wings
Of music let us rise
Like velvet honey-flies
To praise the gods of sound with those bee-murmurings:

The sound of violins
And the clear sound of flutes
As round as honeyed fruits—
(And like the water-Phoenix ever rising
For wanderers in the lonely desert sand—)

Praise we these earthly gods—
Praise with the trumpet's purple sound—
Praise with the trumpet flower
And with that flower the long five-petalled hand
That sweeps the strings.
Praise with that Angel of High God, the voice—
O let use still rejoice
And praise we these great men from the first hour
Of the spirit's birth until our earthly setting

Into the night of Death.
Praise with our last breath
These earthly Gods who bring
All sounds, all faiths, delights, and splendors lost
Beneath the winter's frost
Back to the hearts, the hearths and homes of men.

Fires on the hearth, fires in the skies, fires in the human heart,
Praise we great men!]

Edith Sitwell

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Praise We Great Men

Words by EDITH SITWELL

BENJAMIN BRITTEN (1976)

edited and orchestrated by Colin Matthews

1 Maestoso

Instrumentation: Piccolos, Flute 1, Oboes, Clarinets in B $\flat$, Bassoons, Horns in F, Trumpets in C, Timpani, Percussion (Glockenspiel, Vibraphone), Harp, Piano, Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass.

Lyrics:

Praise we great men From all the hearths and homes of men, from hives Of ho-ney-mak - ing lives.

Tempo: 1 Maestoso

7

Picc. 1 *f* *p* *pp*

Picc. 2 *mf* *p* *pp*

Fl. 1 *p* *pp*

Ob. 1 *mf* *pp* 3

Ob. 2 *mp* *p* *pp* 3 to Cor Anglais

Cl. 1 *p* *pp* *pp*

Cl. 2 *pp*

Bsn. 1

Perc. (Glock.) *mf* *pp* *pp*

Perc. (Vibr.) *p* *pp* 3 3 3

Hp. *mf* *p* *pp*

Pno. *f* *p* *pp* *pp*

S. *f* *fp* *pp* *ppp*

A. *f* *fp* *pp* *ppp*

T. *f* *fp* *pp* *ppp*

B. *f* *fp* *pp* *ppp*

Praise with our mu - sic those Who bring the morn - ing light To the hearts of men, those house - holds of high heaven.

Vln. I (pizz.) *f* *p* *pp!*

Vln. II (pizz.) *mf* *p* *pp!*

Vla. (pizz.) *p*

Vc. (solo) *p*

Db. (solo) *p*

