October 2022

ABCD 2022 Christmas repertoire session





ABCD 2022 session for Christmas Contents

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Composer and piece information:

Reena Esmail –A Winter Breviary for SATB unaccompanied

The three movements of A Winter Breviary are entitled: 'We look for you', 'The year's midnight', and 'The unexpected early hour'. The movements are each based on an Indian classical Raag: Raag Hamsadhwani, Raag Malkauns, and Raag Ahir Bhairav, respectively. The texts, by poet Rebecca Gayle Howell, are linked to the Christian services of Evensong, Matins, and Lauds, and are eco-carols written from the perspective of a different point in time-evening, midnight, and daybreak-using nature to explore a different part of the Christmas story. The first two movements have a serene and pensive atmosphere that contrasts with the third movement, which uses an energetic compound time signature and bell-like melodic shapes.

Reena Esmail works between the worlds of Indian and Western classical music, to bring communities together through the creation of equitable musical spaces. Esmail holds degrees from The Juilliard School and the Yale School of Music, and has written for Kronos Quartet, Albany Symphony and Conspirare. A resident of Los Angeles, Esmail is the 20-23 Swan Family Artist in Residence with Los Angeles Master Chorale. She is the Artistic Director of Shastra, a non-profit organization that promotes cross-cultural music connecting musical traditions of India and the West.

Laura Jēkabsone - As Joseph was a-walking for SATB (with divisions) and two soloists unaccompanied

In this beautiful setting, Latvian composer Laura Jēkabsone presents a modern, popular take on the familiar carol text by Henry John Gauntlett. The piece is led by two soloists (one upper voice, one lower voice), who the choir underpin with a rich harmonic cushion of a cappella-style scats. The melodies are instantly memorable, and the choir's move from an accompanying role to presenting the final chorus gives a powerful lift and emphatic conclusion to this effective Christmas work.

Laura Jekabsone is a Latvian composer, arranger, singer, teacher, and conductor. She studied at Jazeps Vitols Latvian Academy of Music and has participated internationally in vocal workshops and composition competitions. She is the artistic director of vocal group Latvian Voices and the assistant conductor and vocal coach for mixed-voice choir Maska. Her music has been performed by ensembles around the world including The Real Group (Sweden), Sjaella (Germany), Magi Ensemble (USA), Cantabile Voices (Taiwan), Incantare Coro Femenino (Argentina), and Raffles Chorale (Singapore).

Cecilia McDowall - There is no rose for SATB (with divisions) unaccompanied

Commissioned by King's College, Cambridge, for the 2021 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, Cecilia McDowall's setting of this well-known fifteenth-century macaronic text is expressive and ethereal. Employing the richness of her distinctive harmonic palette, McDowall pairs upper and lower voices to great effect throughout, contrasting polyphonic writing with moments of rhythmic unison. The carol abounds in rise and fall of both melody and dynamic, before drawing to a hushed, atmospheric close.

Cecilia McDowall has been described by the International Record Review as having a 'communicative gift that is very rare in modern music. An award-winning composer, McDowall is often inspired by extra-musical influences, and her choral writing combines rhythmic vitality with expressive lyricism. Her music has been commissioned, performed, and recorded by leading choirs, among them the BBC Singers, The Sixteen, and Oxford and Cambridge choirs and is regularly programmed at prestigious festivals in Britain and abroad. In 2017 McDowall was selected for an Honorary Fellow award by the Royal School of Church Music.

Becky McGlade – O little town of Bethlehem for SATB choir unaccompanied

This imaginative setting of the well-loved text O little town of Bethlehem, by Phillips Brooks, displays McGlade's characteristic rich and expressive harmonies, with their jazz inflections. Opening with a plaintive two-part harmony for upper voices, the scoring expands into lush four- and five-part textures. McGlade uses swelling dynamics, legato vocal lines, and freely changing metre. O little town of Bethlehem would be a superb choice for Christmas services and concerts.

Sarah Quartel – On this Silent Night for SATB and piano

On this Silent Night perfectly conveys the magic and excitement of winter, conjuring images of warmth by the fireside while the weather outside closes in and giving a subtle nod to Franz Gruber's Silent night. The vivid imagery of the secular text is enhanced through gleaming harmonies and glittering quaver movement in the piano accompaniment. Hemiolas give the piece a dance-like quality, while a contrasting middle section uses darker sonorities and textures to reflect the storm outside.

Sarah Quartel is a Canadian composer and educator known for her fresh and exciting approach to choral music. She celebrates the musical potential of all learners by providing singers access to engaging repertoire and transformative musical experiences. Deeply inspired by the life-changing relationships that can occur while making choral music, Sarah writes in a way that connects singer to singer, ensemble to conductor, and performer to audience. Although Sarah has been a full-time composer since 2017, she continues to work as a clinician and conductor at music education and choral events at home and abroad.

John Rutter – Blake's Lullaby for SATB choir and organ

This appealing motet for SATB choir and organ accompaniment was written in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Although the prevailing mood of the gently flowing music is lyrical, with an atmosphere of loving peacefulness, William Blake's Lullaby is not without its darker undertones, and they too are explored, with one or two bold harmonic touches.

John Rutter studied music at Clare College, Cambridge and first came to notice as a composer and arranger of Christmas carols and other choral pieces during those early years; today his compositions, including such concert-length works as Requiem, Magnificat, Mass of the Children, The Gift of Life, and Visions are performed around the world. John edits the Oxford Choral Classics series, and, with Sir David Willcocks, co-edited four volumes of Carols for Choirs. In 1983 he formed his own choir The Cambridge Singers, with whom he has made numerous recordings on the Collegium Records label, and he appears regularly in several countries as a guest conductor and choral ambassador. John holds a Lambeth Doctorate in Music, and was awarded a CBE for services to music in 2007.

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CHRISTMAS

SATB unaccompanied





Reena Esmail

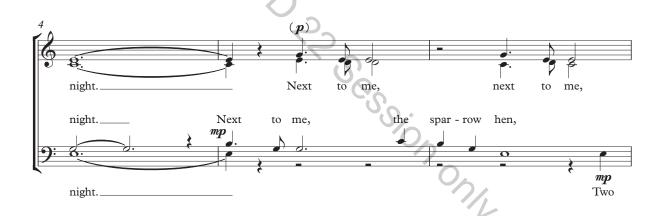
A Winter Breviary

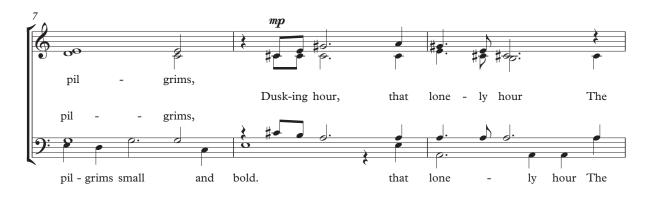
Rebecca Gayle Howell (b. 1975)

REENA ESMAIL

1. We Look For You (Evensong) (Raag Hamsadhwani)







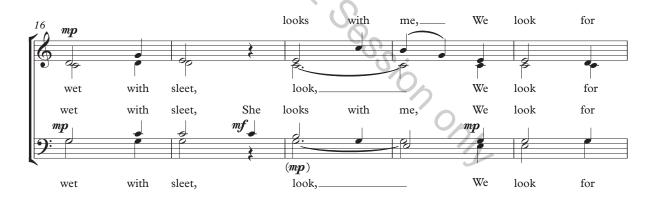
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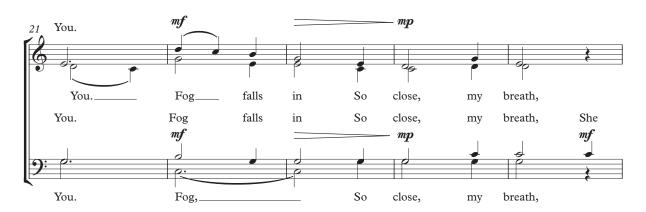
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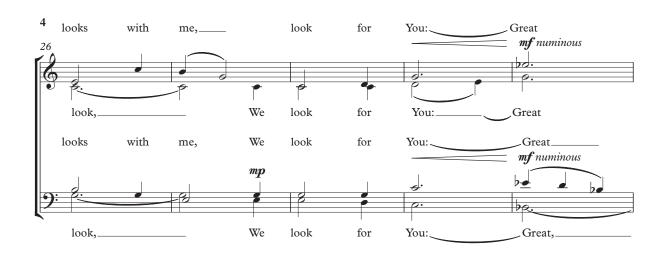


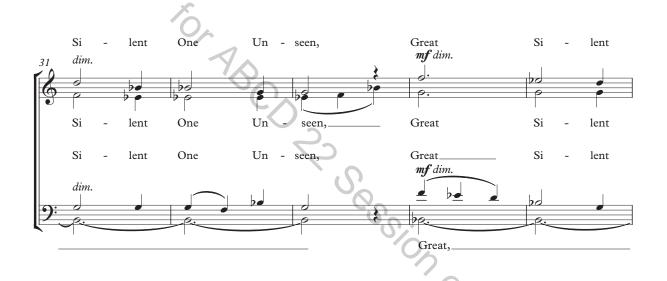


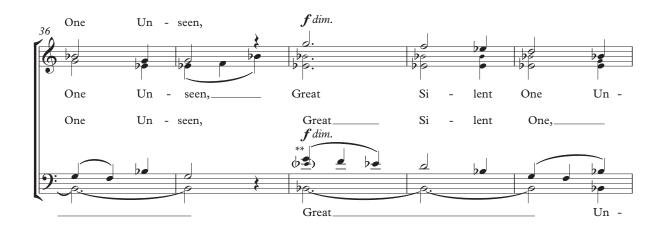




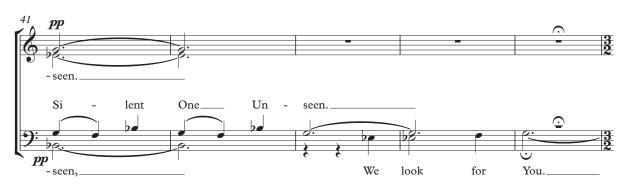
^{*} small noteheads: if there is more than one singer to a part, the part may be sung divisi.

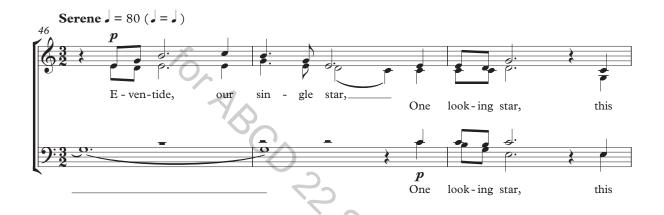




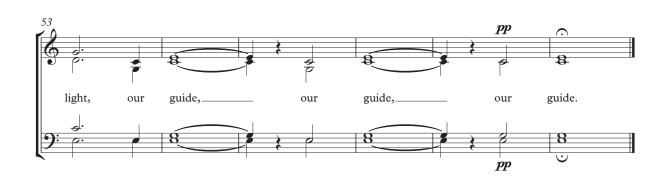


^{**} small noteheads with parentheses: if the main (large type) note is out of range for some singers, all singers may sing the note in parentheses instead (but no divisi: all singers must sing the same note).



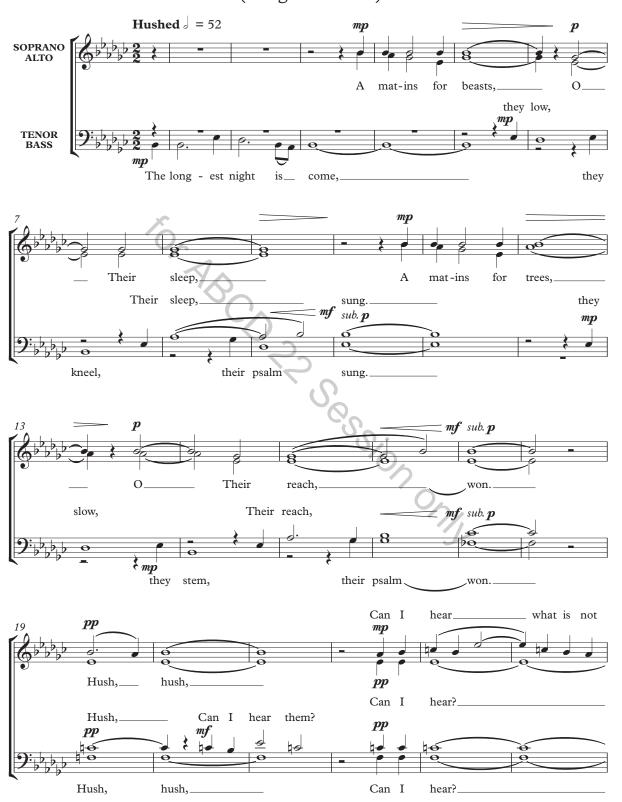


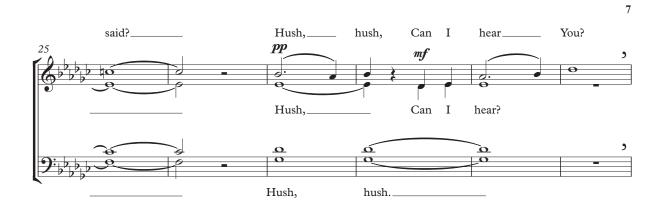


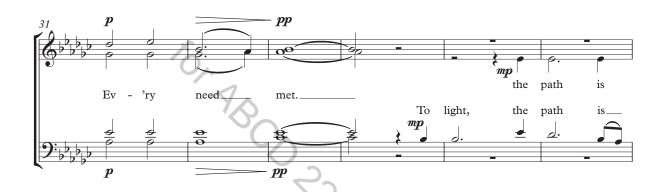


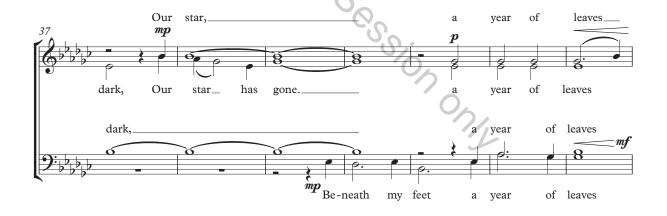
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2. The Year's Midnight (Matins) (Raag Malkauns)



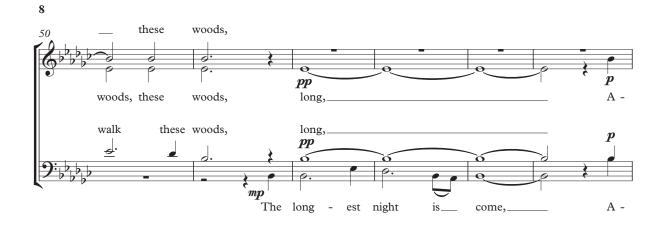


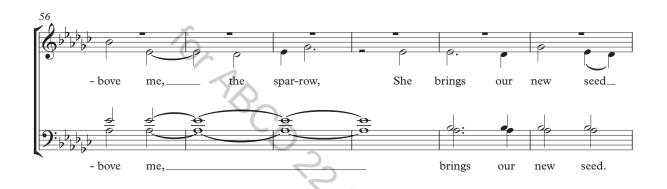


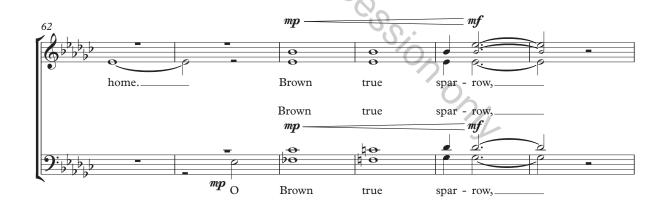


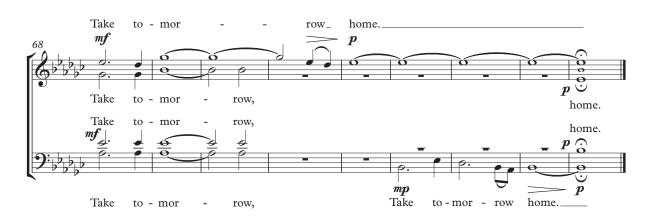


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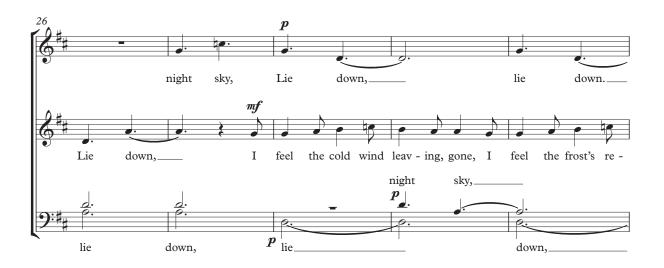
3. The Unexpected Early Hour (Lauds) (Raag Ahir Bhairav)







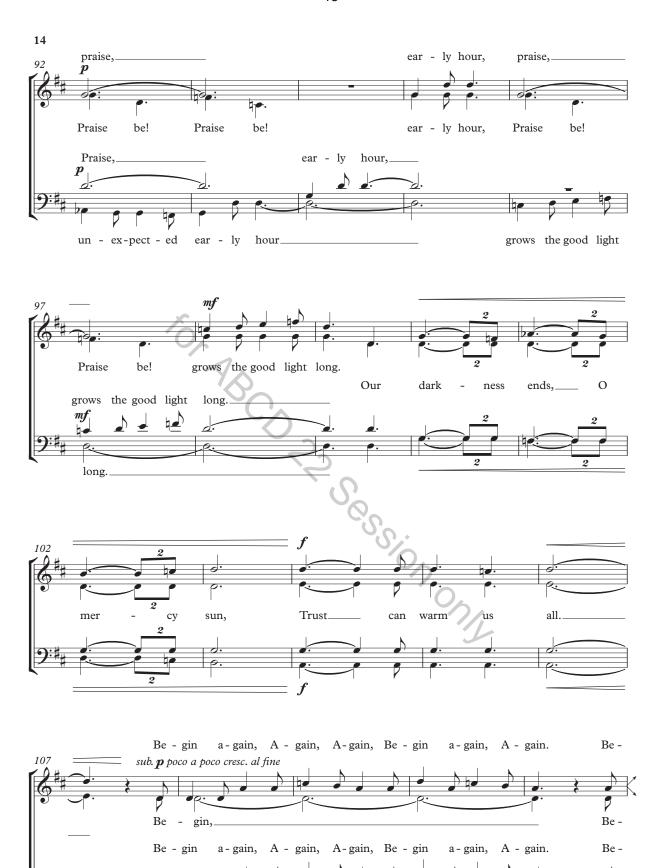








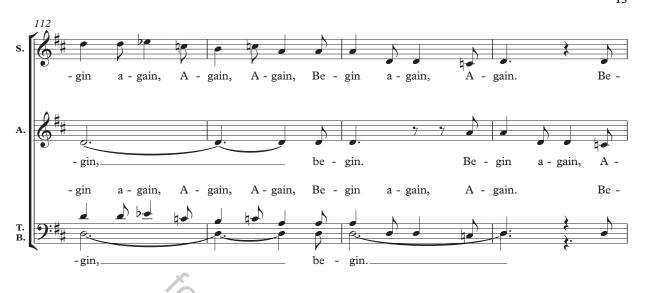




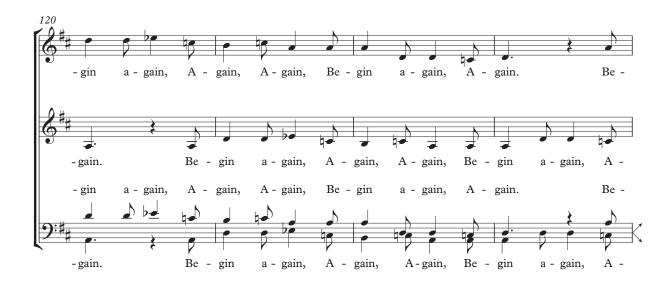
Be-

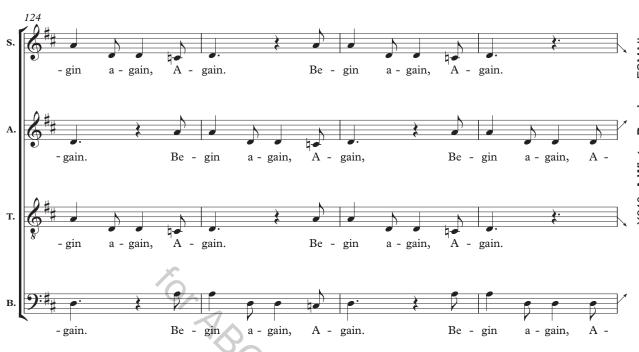
sub. **p** poco a poco cresc. al fine

Be - gin,_____

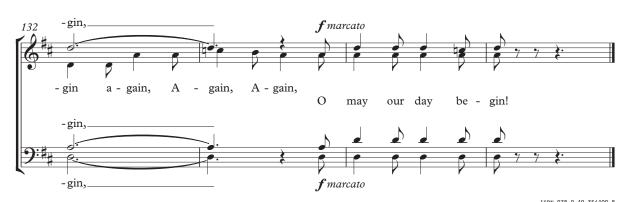












16

voiceJunction at Christmas

OXFORD

SATB (with divisions) unaccompanied, with two soloists

Laura Jēkabsone

As Joseph was a-walking

On Only

As Joseph was a-walking

Henry John Gauntlett (1805–76)

LAURA JĒKABSONE





^{*} Solo 1 may be taken by any upper-voice singer and Solo 2 by any lower-voice singer.

Duration: 3.5 mins

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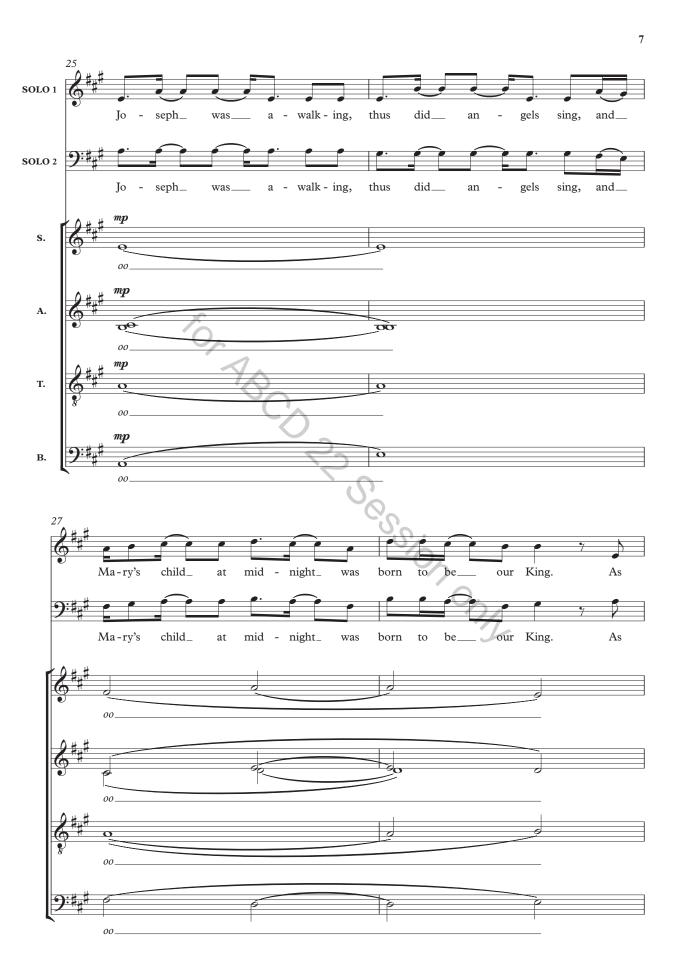


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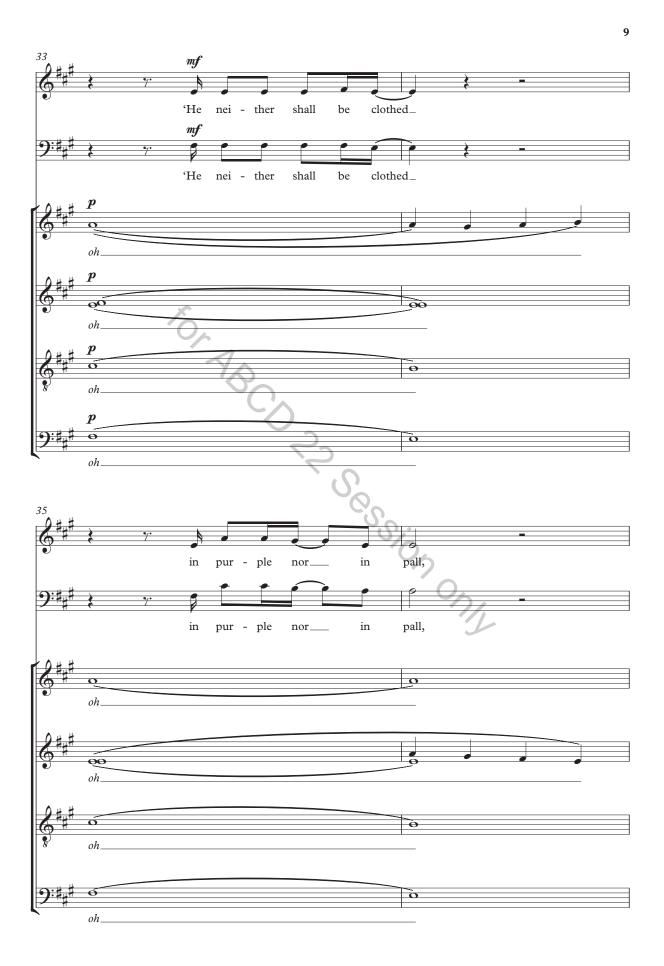


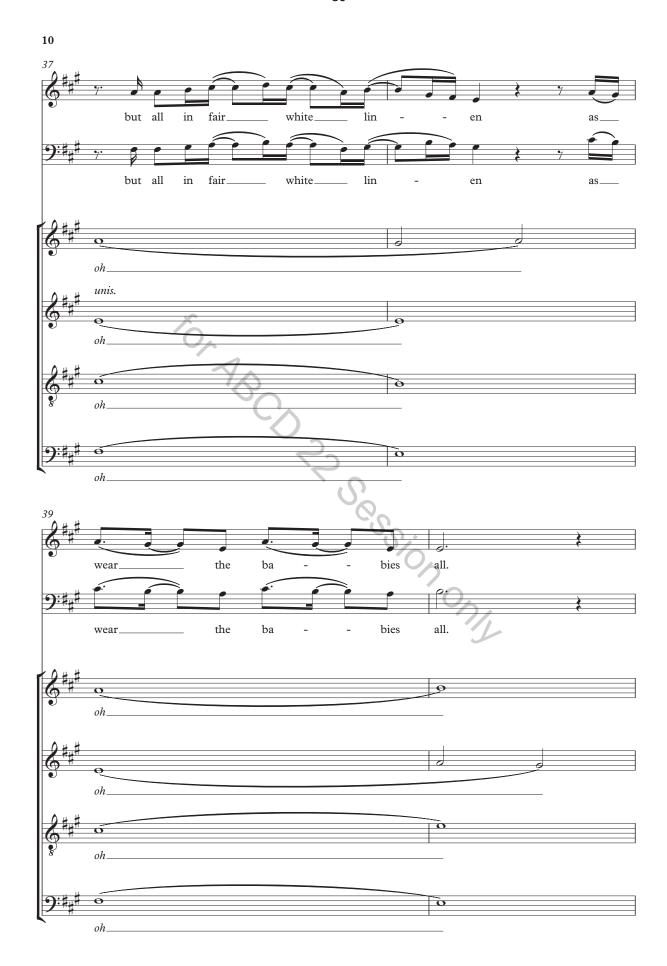


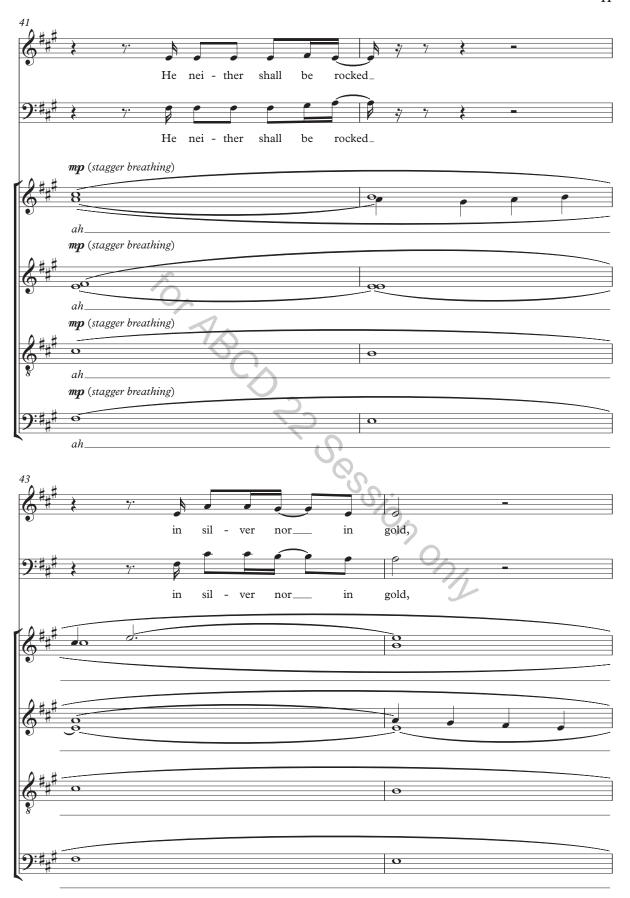




















OXFORD

SATB (with divisions) unaccompanied

There is no rose

Cecilia McDowall

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Commissioned by Daniel Hyde and the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, with support from and in memory of Lucian Nethsingha (King's College 1956), for the 2021 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

There is no rose



Duration: 3 mins

First performed by the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, directed by Daniel Hyde, on Christmas Eve 2021.

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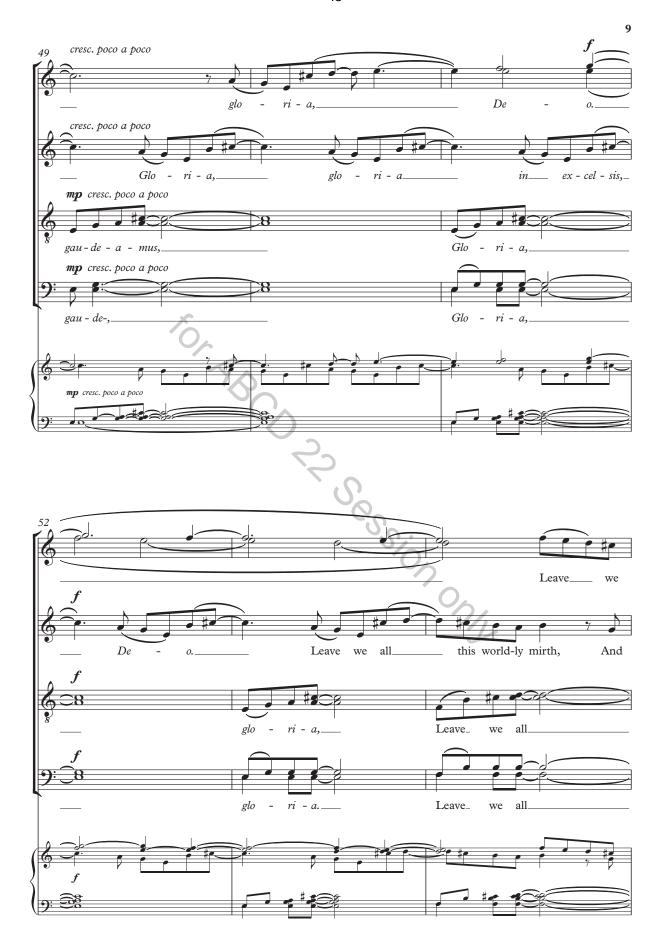




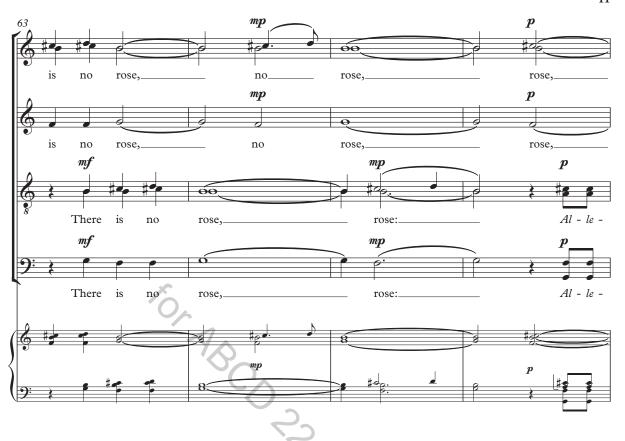


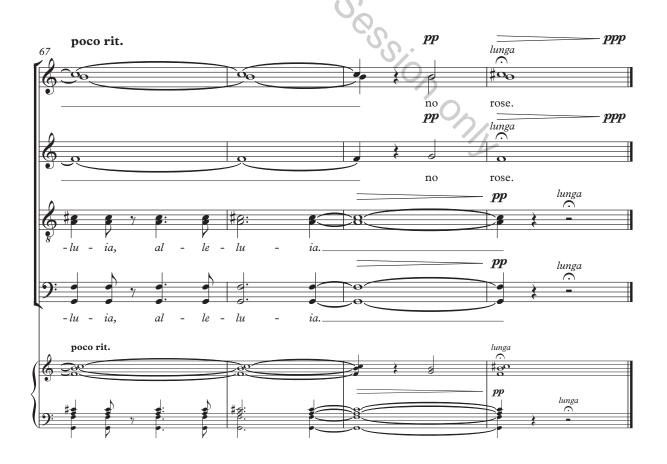












SATB unaccompanied

OXFORD

O little town of Bethlehem

Becky McGlade

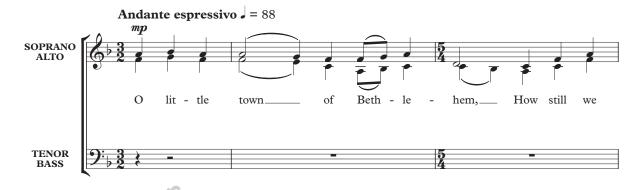
MUSIC DEPARTMENT

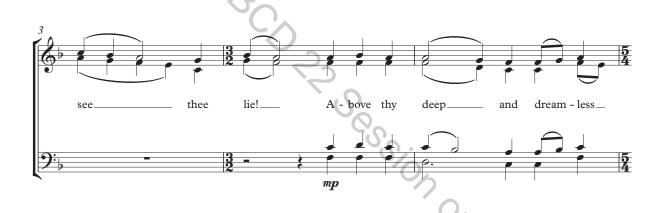
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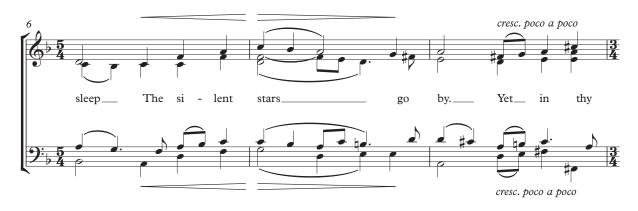
O little town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks (1835–93)

BECKY McGLADE



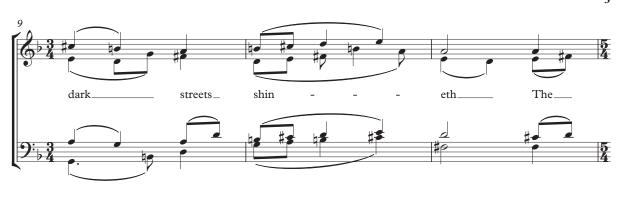




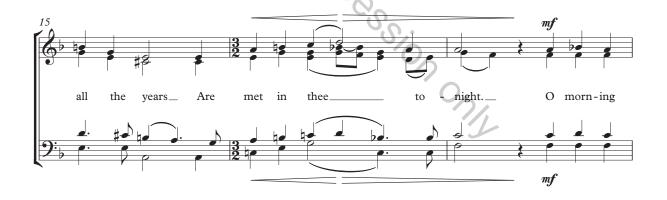
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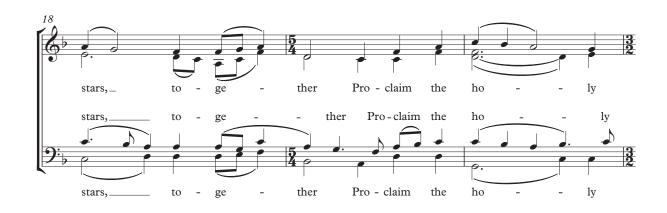
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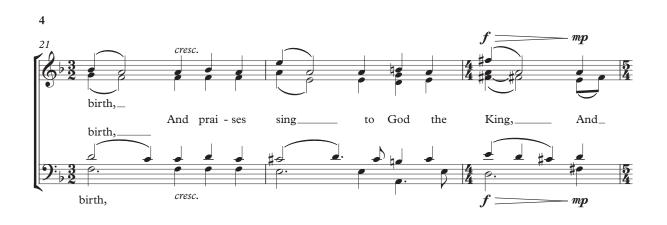


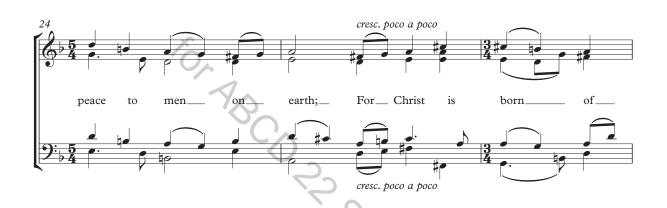




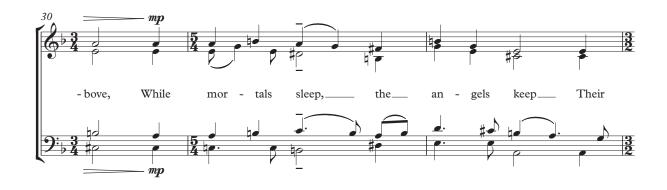




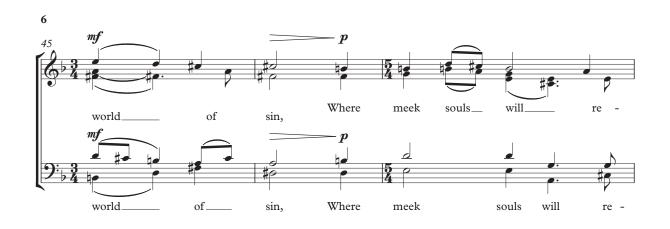




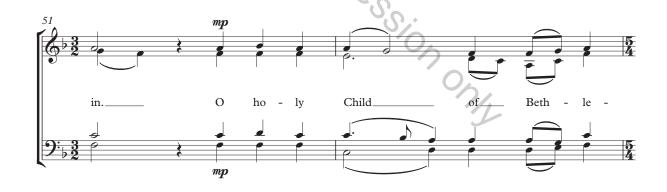


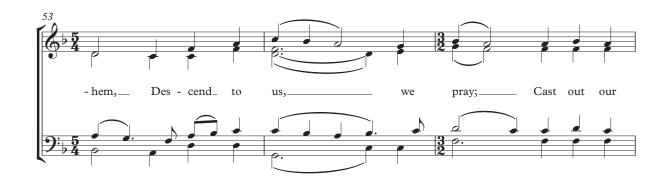














Music originated by Andrew Jones

CHRISTMAS

SATB and piano

OXFORD



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Commissioned by Marie Anderson for SONG (Sounds of the Next Generation) Cobourg, Ontario, Canada

On this Silent Night

Words and music by **SARAH QUARTEL**



Duration: 3 mins

Printed in Great Britain





















JOHN RUTTER BLAKE'S LULLABY

TON ABOUT SESSION ONLY

Written at the invitation of Follow the Stars – Macmillan Carols in celebration of 25 years of fundraising for Macmillan Cancer Support

Blake's Lullaby

William Blake (1757–1827) JOHN RUTTER



Duration: 4½ minutes Printed in Great Britain

















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