



KASSIAN CHORAL SERIES

*Choral music by
Women Composers*

WHAT'S THE BEST THING IN THE WORLD?

Hilary Campbell

SSA & Piano

BANKS MUSIC PUBLICATIONS

KCS003

Kassia (also known as Kassiani) was a ninth-century abbess, poet, composer and hymnographer, born in Constantinople around 810 AD. She was born into a wealthy family and grew to be very beautiful and intelligent. Kassia is notable for writing in her own name and is one of the earliest medieval female composers whose music has survived to the present day. Around 50 of her hymns exist, along with a wealth of verse and epigrams. The most famous of her compositions is the eponymous **Hymn of Kassia**.

It was customary at that time for emperors to sometimes choose a bride from a gathering of the most beautiful maidens by giving a golden apple to their choice. Legend has it that the young emperor Theophilus met Kassia as a potential bride and smitten with her beauty said to her: 'Through a woman came forth the baser things' (referring to the biblical story of Eve eating the forbidden fruit). To which Kassia replied tersely: 'And through a woman came forth the better things,' (referring to Christ's mother, the Virgin Mary). Theophilus' pride was hurt by Kassia's response and he chose to marry someone else.

Commissioned by the Antara Korai Children's Choir of Alcorcón

WHAT'S THE BEST THING IN THE WORLD?

Words by
ELIZABETH BARRATT BROWNING

Music by
HILARY CAMPBELL

Jubilantly ♩ = 96

Soprano I

Soprano II

Alto

Piano

f

5

mf

What's the best thing in the world? _____

mf

What's the best thing in the world? _____

mf

What's the best thing in the world? _____

mf

9

June - rose, by May_ dew im - pearled;

June - rose, by May_ dew im - pearled;

June - rose, by May_ dew im - pearled;

13

mp Sweet south - wind, that means no rain;

mp Sweet south - wind, that means no rain;

mp Sweet south - wind, that means no rain;

17

mf *p*

Truth, not cru-el to a friend;

mf *p*

Truth, not cru-el to a friend;

mf *p*

Truth, not cru-el to a friend;

mf *p* *mp*

21

mp

Plea - sure, not in haste to end;

mp

Plea - - sure, not in haste to end;

mp

Plea - - sure, not in haste to end;

mp

25 *mf*
Beau - ty, not self-decked and curled
mf
Beau - ty, not self-decked and curled
mf
Beau - ty, not self-decked and curled

29 *f*
Til its pride is ov - er - plain;
f
Til its pride is ov - er - plain;
f
Til its pride is ov - er - plain;

33

p Light, _____ that ne-ver makes you wink;

p Light, _____ that ne-ver makes you wink;

p Light, _____

p

37

Me-mo-ry, _____ that gives no__ pain;

Me-mo-ry, _____ that gives no__ pain;

_____ that ne-ver makes you wink; Me-mo-ry, that

41 *mf*
Love, _____ when, so, you're loved a - gain.
mf
Love, _____ when, so, you're loved a - gain.
mf
gives no pain; Love, _____ when, so, you're loved a - gain.

45
What's the best thing in the
What's the best thing in the
What's the best thing in the

49 *f*

world? _____ Some - thing out of it, I

world? _____ Some - thing out of it, I

world? _____ Some - thing out of it, I

f

53 *molto rit.*

think. _____

think. _____

think. _____

molto rit.

mp



Hilary Campbell is a freelance choral specialist based in London and is founder and director of professional chamber choir Blossom Street, and Musical Director of Bristol Choral Society, the Music Makers of London and Chiswick Choir. She is currently also working as Associate Conductor of Ex Cathedra. She also runs an annual project with Master of the Queen's Music Judith Weir at the Royal Academy of Music and began working there in 2017 as a BMus Lecturer.

In addition, she is conductor of P&O Ferries Choir, the group which won the BBC2 series *The Choir*, whom she met whilst filming for the series. In addition to her regular conducting work, Hilary also acts as an adjudicator, choral workshop leader and guest conductor. She is a founder member of the Voices of London Festival, and cofounder of music workshop scheme VOCALIZE.

As well as original compositions, Hilary also works as an arranger; a number of her arrangements feature on a CD of Christmas carols released by Union Square Music, and her arrangement of the National Anthem was performed on ITV1 and at the Wimbledon New Theatre for the Prince of Wales' 60th birthday. Her arrangements of hymn tunes are broadcast on Radio 4, she was commissioned to write the music for adverts for HBO, Sky and 3 Mobile, and she frequently receives commissions from the London Gay Men's Chorus. Additionally, she arranges pop and jazz hits for Blossom Street.

Other titles in the Kassian Choral Series:

Hilary Campbell

My love is come to me SSA & Piano KCS002



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