

for Christopher Borrett and the Choir of St Mary-le-Tower Church, Ipswich

SEEING THE STAR

Words from Antiphon for
the first Vespers of EpiphanyBEN PONNIAH
(b 1984)**Andante e splendente** ♩ = 80

pp

SOPRANO
See - ing the star, see - ing the star,

pp

ALTO
See - ing the star, see - ing the star,

pp

TENOR
See - ing the star, see - ing the star,

pp

BASS
See - ing the star, see - ing the star,

Andante e splendente ♩ = 80

PIANO
(for rehearsal only)

5

see - ing the star, see - ing the star,

see - ing the star, see - ing the star,

see - ing the star, see - ing the star,

see - ing the star, see - ing the star,

9

p

see - ing the star, see - ing the star,

p

see - ing the star, see - ing the star,

p

star, see - ing the star, see - ing the

p

star, see - ing the star, see - ing the

13

mp

see - ing the star, see - ing the star, the

mp

see - ing the star, see - ing the star, the

mp

star, see - ing the star, the star, the

mp

star, see - ing the, see - ing the star, the

17 *f*

Wise Men re - joiced with great joy, great joy, and

Wise Men re - joiced with great joy, great joy, and

8 *f*

Wise Men re - joiced with great joy, great joy, and

f

Wise Men re - joiced with great joy, great joy, and

21 *mp* *mf*

en - ter - ing the house, and en - ter - ing the house, they

mp *mf*

en - ter - ing, and en - ter - ing the house, the house, they

mp *mf*

en - ter - ing the house, and en - ter - ing the house, they

mp *mf*

en - ter - ing the house, and en - ter - ing the house, they

25 *rit* ----- 5

ff *p*,

of - fered the Lord gold, in - cense and myrrh.

ff *p*,

of - fered the Lord gold, in - cense and myrrh.

ff *p*,

of - fered the Lord gold, in - cense and myrrh.

ff *p*,

of - fered the Lord gold, in - cense and myrrh.

rit -----

30 **Meno mosso** ♩ = 63 **Solo**

pp *p*

See - ing the star, see - ing the star, see - ing the Lord.

pp

See - ing the star, see - ing the star.

pp

See - ing the star, see - ing the star. _____

pp

See - ing the star, see - ing the star. _____

Meno mosso ♩ = 63

Composer's note

I started singing at St Mary-le-Tower Church in 1990 when I was six years old. John Cooper was the Organist and Director of Music at the time, followed by Michael Nicholas. *Seeing the star* is my way of saying thank you to St Mary-le-Tower for providing such an inspiring choral education.

In this piece, I try to capture the wonderment of the Wise Men, as they look up at the star on their journey to the baby Jesus. The soprano part is initially characterised by increasing intervals, to reflect the upward gaze of the Wise Men. Tone clusters are used to create a shimmering starlight effect.

Duration: c2 minutes

Text

Seeing the star, the Wise Men rejoiced with great joy, and entering the house, they offered the Lord gold, incense and myrrh. Seeing the star, seeing the Lord.

from the Antiphon for the first Vespers of Epiphany



Photo: Sarah MacDonald

Ben Ponniah

Ben Ponniah is a British composer. His music has been performed at cathedrals and chapels around the world, as well as being broadcast on radio, including by the BBC Singers on BBC Radio 3. It also features on a number of CDs including *Celestial Dawn* (Signum Classics) by The Pembroke College Girls' Choir and *Marvellous Light* (Regent Records) by The Choir of Selwyn College, Cambridge. Ben was awarded the Derek Ogston Postgraduate Music Scholarship by the University of Aberdeen in support of his PhD in Composition. His love of sacred music stems from his choral background, which started at St Mary-le-Tower Church in Ipswich. His first degrees were in Economics, after which he explored jazz piano, which rekindled his love for composition.