

Be This Thine Ark

*Setting of words by John Donne
for SSATB choir and organ*

*Commissioned for Lincoln's Inn Chapel Choir and Hackney Choral
in the 400th year since the Chapel's dedication*

Music by
JANET WHEELER

Duration c. 5'30"



Be This Thine Ark

Text from John Donne's prayer before his sermon for the dedication of Lincoln's Inn Chapel, given on Ascension Day 1623:

Leane upon these pinnacles O Lord as thou didst upon Jacob's ladder, and hearken after us.

Be this thine ark, and let Thy dove, thy blessed Spirit, come in and out at these windows.

I have surrounded two iterations of the above text with three Latin quotations from St Bernard, which Donne includes in the sermon itself, together with his own elaborated translations.

Sanctae animae propter inhabitantem Spiritum; your Soules are holy, by the inhabitation of God's Holy Spirit, who dwells in them.

Sancta corpora propter inhabitantem animam; Your bodies are holy, by the inhabitation of those sanctified souls.

Sancti parietes, propter Corpora Sanctorum; These walls are holy because the saints of God meet here within these walls to glorify him.

The music of this setting is inspired by Donne's vision of the Chapel as an ark (sailing serenely in the face of the storms of life) - a welcoming place for the Holy Spirit to enter. This vision can equally apply to other sacred buildings, with their walls, windows and maybe even pinnacles, together with all those in attendance.

The anthem can be sung by SSATB choir or - as at the first performances (in Lincoln's Inn and at St Paul's Cathedral, where Hackney Choral joined the resident choirs) the top line can feature a youth choir singing together with SATB.

Commissioned for Lincoln's Inn Chapel Choir
and Hackney Choral
in the 400th year since the Chapel's dedication

Be This Thine Ark

Words from John Donne's sermon for the
dedication of the Chapel of Lincoln's Inn
including Latin quotations from St Bernard
with Donne's explanations

Any combination of upper voices
mp clear and legato

Janet Wheeler

Somewhat grandly ♩ = 56

Choir

Sanc-tae an-i-mae prop-ter in - ha - bi - tan - tem Spi-ri-tum:

Organ

Solo *mf* *p*

Pedals

Any combination of lower voices

9 *mp*

Your Soules are ho - ly, by the in - ha - bi - ta - tion of God's Ho - ly

Org.

(change manual)

Ped.

15 **Tutti**

who dwells in them,

Tutti

Spi - rit, who dwells in them,

Org.

Ped.

f

A Stormy ♩. = 56

Org. I *f* II *mf*

Ped.

Org. *3*

Ped.

B

S1 *p* *mp serenely*

S2 *p*

A *p*

T *p*

B *p*

Be this thine ark, and let thy

Be this thine ark,

Be this thine ark,

Be this thine ark,

Be this thine ark,

B

Org. *mf* *mp* *p* same manual

Ped.

30

S1
dove, thy bles - sed Spi-rit come in___ and out, come_ in and out, in and out at these

Org.

Ped.

33

S1
win - dows;___ Leane_____ up - on___ these

S2
in and out at these win-dows;_ Be this thine ark, Leane_____ up - on___ these

A
in and out at these win-dows;_ Be this thine ark,

T
Be this thine ark,

B
Be this thine ark,

Org.

Ped.

39 *mf*

S1 pin-na-cles O Lord, O Lord as thou didst up - on Ja - cob's

S2 pin - na-cles O Lord, O Lord as thou

A pin-na-cles O Lord, O Lord

T pin-na-cles, pin-na-cles O Lord

B pin-na-cles O Lord

Org. *cresc.*

Ped.

43 *mf* *f*

S1 lad - der, Ja-cob's lad-der, Ja-cob's lad - der, as thou didst up-on Ja-cob's

S2 didst up - on Ja - cob's lad - der, Ja - cob's lad - der, as thou didst up-on Ja-cob's

A as thou didst up-on Ja - cob's lad - der, as thou didst up-on Ja-cob's

T as thou didst up-on Ja - cob's lad - der, Ja-cob's

B as thou didst up-on Ja - cob's

Org. *mf*

Ped.

47 *mp* *urgently*

S1 lad-der, and heark-en af - ter me af - ter me.

S2 lad-der, *mp* *urgently* heark-en af - ter me.

A lad-der, *mp* *urgently* heark-en af - ter me.

T lad-der, *mp* *urgently* heark-en af - ter me.

B lad-der, *mp* *urgently* heark-en af - ter me.

Org. Solo *mp* *mf*

Ped.

53 **C** Any combination of upper voices *p*

Sanc-ta cor-po-ra prop-ter in - ha - bi - tan - tem a-ni-mam; Tenors

Your_ bo-dies are ho-ly, by the in-

Org. **C** *p* (change manual) *sempre p*

Ped.

62 *Tutti*

the in - ha - bi - ta - tion of those sanc - ti - fied souls, those sanc-ti-fied souls.

ha - bi - ta - tion, the in - ha - bi - ta - tion of those sanc - ti - fied souls, those sanc-ti-fied souls.

Org.

Ped.

71 **D** Stormy again

f

mf

Org.

Ped.

75

mf

Org.

Ped.

79

E

p *mp cantabile*

S1 Be this thine ark, and let thy dove, thy bles-sed Spi-rit come

S2 Be this thine ark, and let thy dove, thy bles-sed Spi-rit come

A Be this thine ark, and let thy dove, thy bles-sed Spi-rit come

T Be this thine ark, let thy dove, thy bles - sed

B Be this thine ark, let thy dove, thy bles - sed

Org. *mp* *p* same manual

Ped.

83

S1 in and out come in and out, in and out at these win - dows

S2 in and out come in and out, in and out at these win - dows in and out at these win-dows;

A in and out come in and out, at these win - dows in and out at these win-dows;

T Spi - rit come in and out at these win - dows; *mf* Be this thine

B Spi - rit come in and out at these win - dows; *mf* Be this thine

Org. *mf*

Ped.

87

S1 *mp* Leane up - on these *mf* pin-na-cles O Lord, O

S2 *mp* Be this thine ark Leane up on these pin - na-cles O Lord, O

A *mf* Be this thine ark Leane up - on, up - on these pin-na-cles O Lord, O

T *p* ark Leane up - on these pin-na-cles, *mf* pin-na-cles O

B *p* ark Leane up - on these *mf* pin-na-cles O

Org. *mp*

Ped.

93

S1 Lord as thou didst up - on Ja - cob's lad - der, Ja-cob's

S2 Lord as thou didst up - on Ja - cob's

A Lord as thou didst up - on Ja - cob's lad - der,

T Lord as thou didst up - on Ja - cob's

B Lord as thou didst up - on Ja - cob's

Org. *cresc.*

Ped.

96 *f*

S1 lad - der, Ja - cob's lad - der, as thou didst up - on Ja - cob's

S2 lad - der, Ja - cob's lad - der, as thou didst up - on Ja - cob's

A as thou didst up - on Ja - cob's lad - der, as thou didst up - on Ja - cob's

T lad - der, as thou didst up - on Ja - - cob's lad - der, Ja - cob's

B lad - der, as thou didst up - on Ja - - cob's

Org. *f*

Ped.

99 *mp*

S1 lad - der, and heark - en af - ter me af - ter me.

S2 lad - der, heark - en af - ter me.

A lad - der, heark - en af - ter me.

T lad - der, heark - en af - ter me.

B lad - der, and heark - en af - ter heark - en af - ter me.

Org. Solo *mp* 3 Solo *mp* 3

Ped.

Joyfully (♩ = c.63)

S1 *f* to glo - ri - fy, glo - ri - fy him, —

S2 *f* to glo - ri - fy, glo - ri - fy him, —

A *mf* to glo - ri - fy, him, —

T *mf* to glo - ri - fy, him, —

B *f* glo - ri - fy, glo - ri - fy him, —

Joyfully (♩ = c.63)

Org. *f* 6 6 6 6

Ped. *f*

S1 *f* glo - ri - fy, glo - ri -

S2 *f* glo - ri - fy, glo - ri -

A *f* glo - ri - fy,

T *f* glo - ri - fy,

B *ff* glo - ri - fy,

Org. *ff* 6 6 6 6

Ped.

133

S1
fy him, glo - ri - fy him. *ff*

S2
fy him, glo - ri - fy him. *ff*

A
glo - ri - fy him, glo - ri - fy him. *ff*

T
glo - ri - fy him, glo - ri - fy him. *ff*

B
fy him, glo - ri - fy him. *ff*

Org.
6 6 6 6

Ped.

Some other sacred pieces by Janet Wheeler

All Heaven Before Mine Eyes (<i>SATB anthem with organ</i>)	8'
Alleluia, I heard a voice (<i>SSATB anthem with joyful syncopated middle section</i>)	4'
Beati Quorum Via – Homage to Stanford (<i>anthem for SSATTB</i>)	4'
By Thee I Will Abide (<i>setting of text from Psalm 56 for single then double choir</i>)	5'
God is Everywhere (<i>SATB anthem to words by John Clare, with organ</i>)	5'
Homage to Albright (<i>textured choral soundscape made from simple repeating fragments sung individually with organ accompaniment – duration variable</i>)	
In Every Corner Sing (<i>anthem for the 200th anniversary of St Pancras Church</i>)	4'30"
Just as I am - Five Variants on 'Saffron Walden' (<i>hymn tune and variations</i>)	4'
Loquebantur Variis Linguis (<i>Pentecost motet for SATB with no divisi</i>)	2'
Magnificat for Cantus (<i>setting of the Latin Magnificat for SSAATTBB</i>)	6'30"
O Perfect Love (<i>wedding anthem</i>)	3'
Psalm 121 (<i>setting of the Scottish metrical version for SATB and organ</i>)	5'30"
Preces and Responses	
The Martyrdom of St Edmund (<i>prizewinning anthem for SATB and organ</i>)	4'
To God the Giver of Grace (<i>setting for SSA and organ of an Egyptian Doxology</i>)	2'30"
We Sing to God, the Spring of Mirth (<i>SATB with optional organ</i>)	2'
<i>Prizewinning introit/anthem published by Novello</i>	

For Christmas – carols and arrangements in a variety of styles

Advent Song (<i>Gospel carol for children's choir and SATB with piano</i>)	2'30"
A La Media Noche (<i>Puerto Rican carol arranged for children, SATB and piano duet</i>)	4'30"
Because a Little Child is Born (<i>a cappella SATB with divisi apart from tenors</i>)	3'
Behold I Come (<i>winner of the Hendrix Candlelight Carol competition 2017</i>)	4'30"
Carol of the Poor Children (<i>rhythmic and folk-inspired for SATB and piano</i>)	2'30"
Christmas at Sea (<i>setting of Robert Louis Stevenson for upper voices or cambiata</i>)	3'
Ding Dong Diggety! (<i>jazzy a cappella arrangement of Ding Dong Merrily on High</i>)	2'40"
Gaudeamus Igitur (<i>double choir a cappella setting of Kevin Crossley Holland poem</i>)	3'30"
God Bless You Brother (<i>a Christmas blessing for the homeless, words E. Farjeon</i>)	2'30"
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (<i>original setting for SATB and harp</i>)	5'
Listen to the Angels (<i>jazzy carol incorporating Of the Father's Heart Begotten</i>)	3'
Noel, Noel, Noel (<i>a cappella setting of a medieval text for SSATB</i>)	4'
The Gift on the Living (<i>setting of Celtic text from Carmina Gadelica</i>)	4'30"
The Spirit of Christmas (<i>carol for children's voices, SATB and keyboard</i>)	4'
<i>Words by Martin Angel and Janet Wheeler, published by Hal Leonard</i>	
To Bethlehem (<i>children's carol with SATB and piano, quoting We Three Kings</i>)	4'

Score videos of some of these pieces are on YouTube and more information is on janetwheeler.co.uk

Sacred concert work

Magnificat Cum Angelis	50'
<i>(a choral and orchestral setting of the Latin Magnificat with additional Latin and Mediaeval English texts concerning angels. For SATB choir, soprano solo, chamber orchestra and organ)</i>	

