For the occasion of our wedding, 2nd July 2016

# OF ALL THE SOULS

for SATB (with divisi) & piano or cello

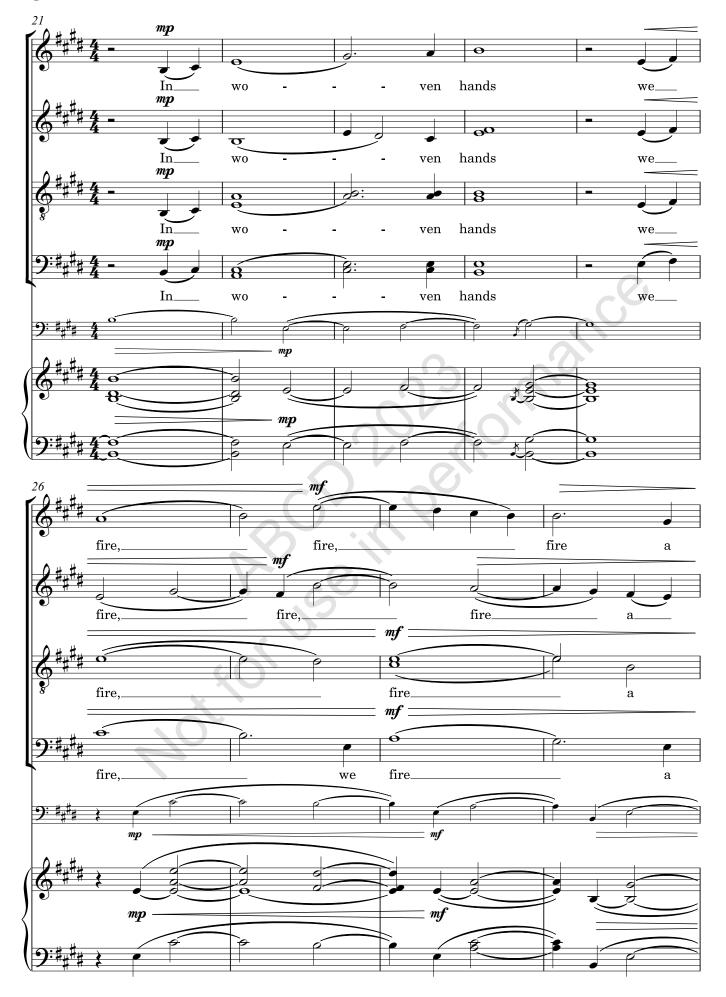


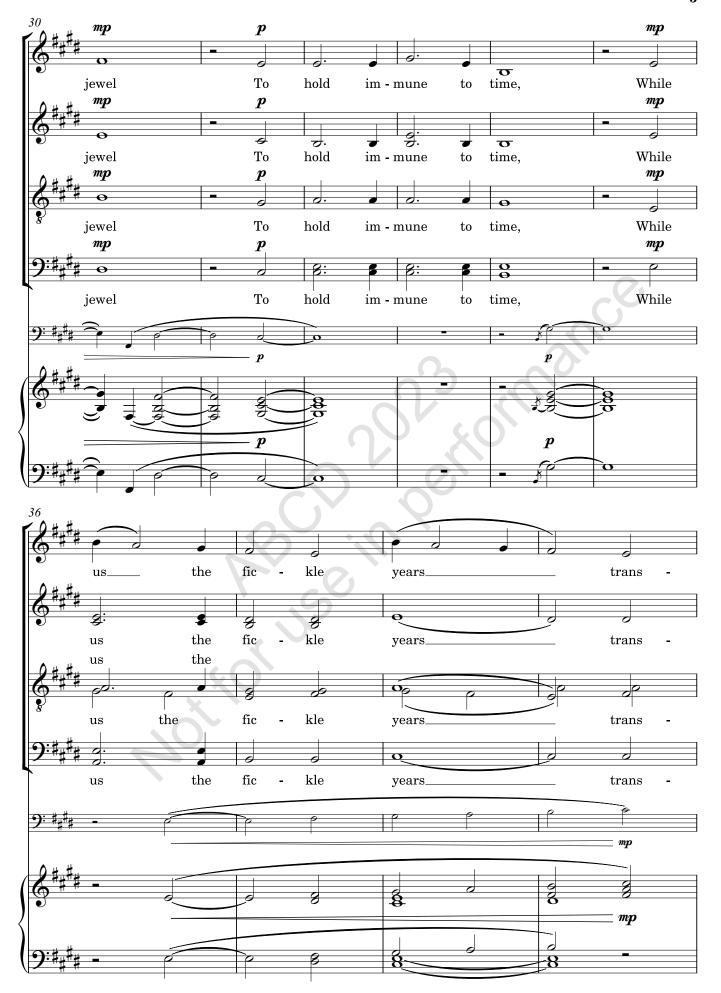
















 $<sup>\</sup>star$  In a secular setting, the word 'church' may be replaced by 'bell'



## Cello

# OF ALL THE SOULS



### Composer's note

Alice and I wrote this piece for the moment she would walk up the aisle at our wedding in Sussex in 2016. The first line is taken from a poem we love by Emily Dickinson. It was sung by a brilliant choir made up of our close friends, conducted by Patrick Allies, and the cello part was written for my uncle Daniel Holst, a fantastic cellist who brought his instrument over from Stockholm for the ceremony.

We were particularly moved by the idea of adding our vows to the long chain of marriages through the ages, which is reflected in the piece's climax: 'To that bright chain through ages strung'. We hope this piece will continue to be sung as many more sets of vows are fixed to that 'bright chain'.

Duration: 3½ minutes

#### Text

Of all the souls that stand create, I have elected one.
I march before eternity,
Declare my prelude done.

In woven hands we fire a jewel To hold immune to time, While us the fickle years transform, This yet remains sublime.

To that bright chain through ages strung, Forged long by church\* and choir, We fix our vows, to love and cherish, Honour and inspire.

Alice Newton-Rex

★ In a secular setting, the word 'church' may be replaced by 'bell'



### Ed Newton-Rex

Ed's musical education began when he was a chorister in the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, where he later returned as a choral scholar. He has written for a number of groups, including The King's Singers, VOCES8, and The Thirteen, and for performances including the BBC Radio 3 broadcast from the Edington Festival. He has also worked extensively in music technology: he founded an Al music composition company that was acquired by ByteDance, and since then has worked on music technology at TikTok and Snapchat, as well as co-founding the Al Song Contest. He lives in California and is a mentor at Abbey Road Studios in London.

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