



# KASSIAN CHORAL SERIES

*Choral music by  
Women Composers*

## I SING OF A MAIDEN

by Tamsin Jones

Unison & Piano

BANKS MUSIC PUBLICATIONS

KCS021

**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 intelligent and beautiful. 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 sometimes to 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.

















# Sing Lullaby

Anonymous, 16th century

Tamsin Jones

Poignantly (♩ = 70)

*p*

S. Sing lul - la - by, sing lul - la - by, by -

*p*

A. Sing lul - la - by, sing lul - la - by, by -

*p*

T. Sing lul - la - by, sing lul - la - by, by -

*p*

B. Sing lul - la - by, sing lul - la - by, by -

Piano (for rehearsal only)

3

- by, by by, sing lul - la - by.

- by, by - by, by - by, lul - la - by.

- by, by - by, sing lul - la - by.

- by, by - by, sing lul - la - by.

Solo sections can be sung by small groups if desired.





Tamsin Jones comes from the West Midlands and studied music at Newcastle University, winning the David Barlow Memorial Prize (1993) and graduating with first-class honours in 1995. She undertook postgraduate studies at the University of Birmingham under the supervision of Prof. Colin Timms and was awarded her PhD in 2000 for her research into the music of Heinrich Schütz.

Tamsin began composing as a student, but followed a career in singing and teaching before deciding to focus on composition in 2017. One of her first steps was to arrange the recording of her earlier choral works by the renowned 'one-man choir' Matthew Curtis. She released the results as the album *Of a Rose* (2017). She won a Special Award in the 2018 NIPOS (Czech Arts Council) Opus Ignatum choral composition competition and first prize in the inaugural SPARK! competition with *To the Rainbow*, which was premiered by Collegium Ancora at Rhode Island Pride in 2019.

Tamsin has completed numerous commissions of diverse kinds, ranging from a sonata for clarsach (Celtic harp) through to *The Daffodils - A Symphony for Chorus and Orchestra* (2019) and even a mini-ballet for a combination of western instruments and gamelan (*Encounters*, 2019). Although Tamsin particularly enjoys composing choral music she is interested in new ways of performing and delivering music, and has written a number of pieces using orchestral sample libraries.

Tamsin's music is performed around the world by both amateur and professional choirs and ensembles. Her best-known composition is the carol *Noel: Verbum Caro Factum Est*, which has been published as part of the pioneering anthology of music by women composers 'Multitude of Voyces' (2020) and broadcast in May 2021 by BBC Singers on Radio 3. This carol has also been performed by Chamber Choir Ireland, Renaissance Voices of Portland and many other choirs in the UK, Hungary and Canada. It has also been included on the acclaimed disk *The Dawn of Grace* by the choir of Somerville College, Oxford, directed by Will Dawes. Tamsin has also appeared as a guest on BBC Radio Cumbria on several occasions. Tamsin enjoys passing on her knowledge to the next generation of composers and others by teaching at the International Centre for Music Studies at Newcastle University.

*Biographical material supplied by Polyphony Arts*



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