

# *Heartwood*

*Setting of a poem by Robert Macfarlane.*

*A movement from the choral and orchestral work*

## *The Measure of a Tree*

*Arrangement for SSA choir and piano*

*(Original SATB version also available)*

**by**

**JANET WHEELER**

Duration 3'30"



## **Heartwood**

Would you hew me to the heartwood, cutter?  
Would you leave me open-hearted?

Put an ear to my bark cutter, hear my sap's mutter,  
Mark my heartwood's beat, my leaves' flutter.

Would you turn me into timber, cutter?  
Leave me nothing but a heap of logs, a pile of brash?

I am a world, cutter, I am a maker of life –  
Drinker of rain, breaker of rocks, caster of shade, eater of sun,

I am time-keeper, breath-giver, deep-thinker, cutter;  
I am a city of butterflies, a country of creatures.

But my world takes years to grow, cutter, and seconds to crash;  
Your saw can fell me, your axe can bring me low.

Do you hear these words I utter?  
I ask this of you –  
Have you heartwood, cutter?  
Have those who sent you?

***Robert Macfarlane***

# Arrangement for SSA

Original for SATB also available

## Heartwood

movement from *The Measure of a Tree*

Words by ROBERT MACFARLANE

A charm against harm to protect  
any tree under threat, especially the  
street trees of Sheffield

Music by JANET WHEELER

**Con moto** ♩ = 104

Soprano

Soprano

Alto *f angrily*  
Would you hew me to the heart-wood, cut-ter?

Piano

7 *f angrily*  
Would you leave me op - en heart - ed? hear my

*f angrily*  
Would you leave me op - en heart - ed? hear my

Put an ear to my bark, cut-ter

Music © Janet Wheeler

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15

sap's mut-ter, Mark my heart-wood's beat, my leaves' flut-ter.

sap's mut-ter, Mark my heart-wood's beat, my leaves' flut-ter.

Would you turn me in - to

23

Leave me no-thing but a heap of logs, a pile of brash?

Leave me no-thing but a heap of logs, a pile of brash?

tim-ber, cut-ter? a pile of brash?

30

*sempre f*  
I am a world,

*sempre f*  
I am a world,

*sempre f*  
I am a world,

39

cut-ter, ma-ker of life — I am a ma-ker of life — Drink-er of

cut-ter, I am a ma-ker of life — Drink-er of

cut-ter, I am a ma-ker of life — Drink-er of

47

Drink-er of rain, break-er of rocks, cast - er of rain, break - er of rocks, cast - er of shade, rain, break - er of rocks, cast - er of shade,

Drink-er of rain, break-er of rocks, cast - er of rain, break - er of rocks, cast - er of shade, rain, break - er of rocks, cast - er of shade,

Drink-er of rain, break-er of rocks, cast - er of rain, break - er of rocks, cast - er of shade, rain, break - er of rocks, cast - er of shade,

54

shade, Eat - - er of sun, eat - er of sun. Eat - - er of sun, eat - er of sun. Eat - - er of sun, of sun.

shade, Eat - - er of sun, eat - er of sun. Eat - - er of sun, eat - er of sun. Eat - - er of sun, of sun.

shade, Eat - - er of sun, eat - er of sun. Eat - - er of sun, eat - er of sun. Eat - - er of sun, of sun.

62

*f* I am time - - keep - er,

*f* I am time - - keep - er,

*f* I am time - - keep - er,

70

breath - - - giv - er, Deep - - - -

breath - - - giv - er, Deep - - - -

breath - - - giv - er, Deep - - - -

79

*mp* think - er, *p* deep - think - er, *f* cut - ter;

*mp* think - er, *p* deep - think - er, *f* cut - ter;

*mp* think - er, *p* deep - think - er, *f* cut - ter;

*mp* *f* *p* *leggiero*

90 *mp* I am a ci - ty of but - ter - flies,

*mp* I am a ci - ty of but - ter - flies, *mp* I am a ci - ty of but - ter - flies,

*mp* I am a ci - ty of but - ter - flies,

98 *mf* a coun - - try of crea - - -

*mf* a coun - - try of crea - - -

*mf* a coun - - try of crea - - -

*p*

*mf*

*leg.*

105 *p* - tures. But my world takes years to grow, years to grow, *mp*

*p* - tures. But my world takes years to grow, years to grow, *mp*

*p* - tures. But my world takes years to grow, years to grow, *mp*

*p* *legato*

117 *mf* *fp* *snarling crescendo*

years to grow, years to grow,

years to grow, years to grow,

years to grow, years to grow,

*mp* *mf* *f*

128 *ff* *fp* *ff* *f*

cut-ter, And se-conds to crash, Ah

cut-ter, And se-conds to crash, Ah

cut-ter, And se-conds to crash, Ah

cut-ter, And se-conds to crash, Ah

*ff* *f*

134 *a little slower*

*gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.*

*end in a groan\** *end in a groan\** *end in a groan\**

\* The conductor may decide to extend the glissando and groan (with optional vocal fry) up to b139 ad lib.



138

*p*

Your saw can fell me, your axe can

*p*

Your saw can fell me, your axe can

*p*

Your saw can fell me, your axe can

*gliss.*

*mp*

146

**Tempo primo**

bring me low.

bring me low.

bring me low.

*f*

153

*f*

I ask this of you, ask this of

*f*

I ask this of you, ask this of

*f*

Do you hear these words I ut-ter?

160

you, I ask this of you — Have you heart - wood? *mp*

you, I ask this of you — Have you heart..? Have you heart - *mp*

I ask this of you — Have you heart..? *mf*

*mp cresc.*

168

Have you heart - wood, cut-ter? Have those *ff*

- wood? heart - wood, cut-ter? Have those *ff*

Have you heart - wood, cut-ter? Have those *ff*

*f ff*

174

who sent you?

who sent you?

who sent you?



## Some other music by Janet Wheeler

### Secular mixed voices

Care-Charmer Sleep ( <i>setting of Samuel Daniel text</i> )	3'
Fairest World ( <i>elegy based on Purcell's 'Fairest Isle' for choir and saxophone</i> )	4'30"
Gather the Good Days ( <i>cycle of 5 settings on memory for SATB</i> )	13'
Gaudeamus Igitur ( <i>double choir a cappella setting of Kevin Crossley Holland poem</i> )	3'30"
Imagine it! ( <i>written for and recorded by NYCGB double choir with percussion duo</i> )	6'
Time Becomes a Song ( <i>cycle of five SATB settings of John Clare</i> )	15'

### For upper voices

A Poison Tree ( <i>setting of William Blake for SSAA a cappella</i> )	4'
And Then we Knew Peace ( <i>upper voices with piano accompaniment</i> )	4'
To God the Giver of Grace ( <i>setting for SSA and organ of an Egyptian Doxology</i> )	2'30"

### Sacred mixed voices

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'
Be This Thine Ark ( <i>setting of John Donne for Lincolns Inn Chapel</i> )	5'30"
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'
Ely Service ( <i>canticles for SATB and organ for Ely Cathedral's 1350<sup>th</sup> anniversary</i> )	12'
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 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Pancras Church</i> )	4'30"
Loquebantur Variis Linguis ( <i>Pentecost motet for SATB with no divisi</i> )	2'
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'
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"
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>	

For score videos of some of these pieces see YouTube MazeMusic Channel  
For more information on larger works see [janetwheeler.co.uk](http://janetwheeler.co.uk)

