

Dedicated to Stephen Deazley

TWO SHORT SONGS FROM THE DOON VALLEY

for SATB & piano or string orchestra

Blackcraig Hill

Words by
MAGGIE BROADLEY

JAMES MACMILLAN
(b 1959)

♩ = c72 **rall** - - - -

SOPRANO
ALTO

TENOR
BASS

PIANO

(rall) - - - - **a tempo**

mp *poco* *mp*

5

Black-craig Hill walk - ers see the world on

mp *poco* *mp*

(rall) - - - - **a tempo**

A

9 *pp*
high.

pp
dolce

11 *mf warm*

Smoothed — con - tours — scraped the — slow rum - ble —

Smoothed — con - tours scraped the slow rum - -

Smoothed — con - tours — scraped the slow rum - -

Smoothed — con - tours scraped the slow rum - -

mf warm

14 *dim* — — — — — *pp*

— and creak of ice — on rock and stone.

- ble and creak of ice on rock and and stone.

- ble and creak of ice on rock and stone.

dim — — — — — *pp*

pp
dolce

17 *f bold*

Re -

f bold

19 **B** *mf*

- claimed, re-claimed, re - claimed, Green shoots e - merge, Growth gath - ers

- claimed, re-claimed, re - claimed,

mf

22 *f*

pace. Re - claimed, re-claimed, re -

f

p *f*

24 *dim* *mf* 3 3

- claimed, Val - - - leys and vast fo - - -

- claimed, *dim* *mf*

26 *f*

- rests A - live, a - live, a -

p *f* *sfz*

28 *ff*

- live.

ff *ff* *ff*

Brown Bear, Rein-deer,

31 **C** De - pos - it - ed
p Stone field, stone
 Elk and Wolf,
p

34 **rall**
mp e - ons a - go, Shat-ter'd by frost ...
 field.
pp

rall
pp

37 **a tempo**
ff Cairns piled, — cairns piled, —
 unis
ff

a tempo

40

placed with care to ho - nour the as

rall - - - a tempo

42

unis

- cent, the de - scent.

p

rall - - -

rall - - - a tempo

mf

p

rall - - -

(rall) - - - molto

45

pp

lv

★ grace notes always on the beat.

A Fire of Ages

Words by
ALLAN MCMILLAN

JAMES MACMILLAN
(b 1959)

Andante moderato ♩ = c108

SOPRANO
ALTO

TENOR
BASS

PIANO

Andante moderato ♩ = c108

f

trem

p

f

trem

5

TB unis

***ff* strepitoso**

A fire of

8

***ff* strepitoso**

a - ges

Ra - ges, ra - ges,

ff

11

ra - ges fast,

trem

trem

p

ff

14

D unis

ff

A deep locked past

ff

16

ff

In gran - ite bounds, in

ff

19

gran - ite bounds, in gran-ite bounds.

ff

22

E

p *mp*

25

p *f* *mp*

28

p *distantly*

S Where the cur - lew sounds, _____ sounds, — where the

p *distantly*

A Where the cur - lew

pp

F

32

S cur - lew sounds, the cur - lew sounds, the

A sounds, sounds, where the cur - lew sounds,

T *p distantly* Where the cur - lew sounds, *p distantly*

B Where the

35

cur - lew sounds, the cur - lew sounds

the cur - lew sounds, the cur - lew sounds

where the cur - lew sounds Wild

cur - lew sounds Wild blow the

38

Wild blow the winds of

Wild blow the winds of me - mo -

blow the winds of me - mo - ry, of

winds of me - mo - ry, of

41 G *poco*

me - mo - ry; Liv - ing souls who nur - tur'd coals, -

- ry, of me - mo - ry; Liv - ing souls who nur - tur'd coals, -

me - mo - ry; Liv - ing souls who nur - tur'd coals, -

me - mo - ry; Liv - ing souls who nur - tur'd coals,

p poco

44 *poco*

Liv - ing souls who nur - tur'd coals -

Liv - ing souls who nur - tur'd coals -

Liv - ing souls who nur - tur'd coals -

Liv - ing souls who nur - tur'd coals -

poco

poco meno mosso e rall _ _ _ a tempo

47 *pp*

S
A

Gone, gone, gone for e - ter - ni - ty.

T
B

pp

poco meno mosso e rall _ _ _ a tempo

pp

pp *p*

51

mf

rall

53

p

pp

BOOSEY & HAWKES

These songs were composed for performance at the 2022 Cumnock Tryst, the community-based annual music festival established by James MacMillan in the Ayrshire town where he grew up. MacMillan comments that “my earliest musical experiences were of making music with friends, relatives, schoolmates and teachers in the town. I remember seeing amateur operatic productions of Gilbert and Sullivan, oratorio performances of Handel, and hearing Cumnock Music Club performances by the Berlin Octet and many other fabulous international musicians. In 1966, for the centenary of the Burgh, Mozart’s *Requiem* was performed in the Old Church and broadcast live on BBC television. Because of these seminal experiences I have followed a life of music, composing and working with some of the most wonderful musicians of our time, all over the world.” These two songs are fruit of the local music festival, being settings of poems by two members of Cumnock Tryst Festival Chorus. The vivid imagery depicted in the music was inspired by both the natural and geological phenomena of the valley, which stretches to the south of the town of Cumnock along the River Doon, and by its coal-mining heritage.

First performance: 2 October 2022, at Dumfries House, Cumnock, by The Cumnock Tryst Festival Chorus and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, conducted by the composer.

String orchestra performance materials available on hire.

Durations: 2½ & 2 minutes

Text

Blackcraig Hill

Blackcraig Hill walkers see the world on high.
Smoothed contours scraped the slow rumble
and creak of ice on rock and stone.

Reclaimed,
Green shoots emerge,
Growth gathers pace.
Reclaimed,
Valleys and vast forests
Alive.

Brown Bear, Reindeer, Elk and Wolf,
Stone field.
Deposited eons ago,
Shattered by frost ...

Cairns piled, placed with care
to honour the ascent, the descent.

Maggie Broadley

A Fire of Ages

A fire of ages
Rages fast,
A deep locked past
In granite bounds.

Where the curlew sounds
Wild blow the winds of memory;
Living souls who nurtured coals
Gone for eternity.

Allan McMillan



Photo: © Philip Gatward

James MacMillan

Born in Scotland in 1959, James MacMillan studied at Edinburgh and Durham Universities and now lives in Largs. His early successes as a composer in the 1990s included *The Confession of Isobel Gowdie*, premiered at the BBC Proms, and the percussion concerto *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel* written for Evelyn Glennie. MacMillan has a special interest in choral composition, ranging from simple liturgical settings for use in church services, to major works for choir and orchestra including *Seven Last Words from the Cross*, *Quickening* and *St John Passion*. His music has been championed and recorded by leading choirs and vocal groups including Cappella Nova, Polyphony, The Hilliard Ensemble, The

Sixteen, Westminster Cathedral Choir and the Netherlands Chamber Choir. With their Gaelic inflections and characteristic mixing of ancient and modern, his works have also proved popular with amateur chamber choirs around the world.