

The original version for CtTTBarB was commissioned by Opus Anglicanum and first performed at St. James's Church, Chipping Campden on the 14th March 2015, followed by a performance at Wells Cathedral on the 17th April 2015.

This version was first performed by The Marian Consort on 26th September 2025 at Malling Abbey, West Malling as part of the Music@Malling Festival.

COMPOSER'S NOTE

In the Crypt of the Wood [original version] was written to be included in Opus Anglicanum's *The Tree of Life* programme, and was inspired by sources such as David Jones' pencil and gouache work *Vexilla Regis*, the Latin hymn of the same name, Jones' poetry (most notably *In Parenthesis*) and various ancient texts. Many of these sources were suggested to me by John Rowlands-Pritchard. I am very grateful to him for, among other things, introducing me to the work of Jones and being endlessly encouraging as I scoured ancient sources for tree references and put together a 'poem' of found words.

I imagine this work as if taking place inside the forest of Jones' *Vexilla Regis*, perhaps as a kind of prayer to one, many or no gods on return from war, with the strains of the *Vexilla regis prodeunt* hymn heard as if carried over the breeze from a place of distant worship.

Cheryl Frances Hoad (2015)

Duration: c. 6 minutes

Order Number: CH88454

TEXT

Vexilla regis prodeunt.

[The banners of the king advance.]

In the crypt of the wood,
A tall tree I know stands,
Showered with shining loam.

Fulget crucis mysterium.

[The mystery of the cross shines forth.]

From there comes the dew,
That drops in the valleys.
The greenest of trees.
Splendid are its branches,
and gloriously adorned.

Quo carne carnis conditor.

[Upon it life did death endure.]

Most wondrous tree wound round by light
Fairest of trees.

Rest yourselves under the tree,
Arbor decora et fulgida,
Ornata regis purpura.

[O beautiful refulgent tree,
Adorned with the purple of a king.]

That tree of which no man knows
Where its roots run.

The old tree groans.
Salve ara, salve victima.

[Hail, altar, and hail, victim]

Now you may know what I have endured
Of sore sorrows.

*De passionis gloria,
Qua vita mortem pertulit.
Et morte vitam reddidit.*

[Because of the glory of the passion.
In that passion life endured death
And by dying gave back life.]

For if they do these things when the tree is green,
What will happen when it is dry?

The Lord's rood, that gallows tree for mankind's sin,
From this loaned life will fetch me away,
And bring me then where is much bliss.

The English text consists of excerpts from the Bible
(Genesis and Luke), 'Völuspá' and 'Hávamál' (from the
Poetic Edda), *The Dream of the Rood*, Norwegian and
Anglo-saxon rune poems and David Jones' *In Parenthesis*
(first line only).

*The Latin text consists of excerpts from
the hymn Vexilla regis prodeunt.*

IN THE CRYPT OF THE WOOD

VARIOUS

CHERYL FRANCES-HOAD

Larghetto *c.* ♩ = 54 **mp**

SOPRANO

ALTO I

ALTO II

TENOR

BASS

Piano (for rehearsal only)

mp *poco* *poco* *mp*

Ve, _____ vex - il - la re - gis pro -

In the crypt of the

5

S.

A.I

A.II

T.

B.

più f *mf sub.* *più f* *mf sub.* *più f* *mf sub.* *più f* *mf sub.*

wood, A tall tree I know stands, Sho-wer'd with shin-ing loam.

- - de - unt. Sho-wer'd with shin-ing loam.

- - de - unt. Sho-wer'd with shin-ing loam.

- - de - unt. Sho-wer'd with shin-ing loam.

- - de - unt. Sho-wer'd with shin-ing loam.

10

meno f *mp* *(p)*

S. Ful - get cru - cis my - ste - ri - um.

A.I. Ful - get cru - cis my - ste - ri - um.

A.II. Vex - il - la re - gis pro - de - unt. Cru - cis my - ste - ri - um.

T. *mp* From *(p)*

B. *meno f* *mp* *(p)*

Ful - get cru - cis my - ste - ri - um.

15

mp *poco* *poco*

S. The green-est of trees.

A.I. *mp* *poco* *poco* *mp* The green-est of trees. Vex-il - la re -

A.II. *mp* *poco* *poco* The green-est of trees.

T. *(mp)* *poco* *poco* *mp* there comes the dew, That drops in the val - leys. The green-est of trees. Vex-il - la re -

B. *mp* *poco* *poco* The green-est of trees.

Poco più mosso

♩. = c. 40

20 *mf*

S. Splen - did are its branch - es, and glo - rious - ly a - dorned, and

A.I. *mf* - gis. Splen - did are its branch - es, Splen - did are its branch - es, and

A.II. *mf* Splen - did are its branch - es, glo - rious -

T. *mf* 8 - gis. Splen - did are its branch - es, glo - rious -

B. *mf* Splen - did are its branch - es, glo - rious ly a - dorned. glo - rious -

25 *più f*

S. glo - rious - ly a - dorned. Quo car - ne car - nis con - di - tor. Splen - did are its

A.I. *più f* glo - rious - ly a - dorned. Quo car - ne car - nis con - di - tor. Splen - did are its

A.II. *più f* - ly a - dorned. Splen - did are its branch - es,

T. *più f* 8 - ly a - dorned. Quo car - ne car - nis con - di - tor Splen - did

B. *più f* - ly a - dorned. Quo car - ne car - nis con - di - tor. Splen - did are its

29

S. branch - es, and glo - rious - ly a - dorned. *mf* *poco* *poco* Quo car-ne car-nis con-di -

A.I. branch - es. *mf* Most won - drous tree, Quo car-ne car-nis con-di -

A.II. glo - rious - ly a - dorned. *mf* *poco* *poco* Quo car-ne car-nis con-di -

T. are its branch - es, a - dorned. *mf* *poco* *poco* Quo car-ne car-nis con-di -

B. branch - es, a - dorned. *mf* *poco* *poco* Quo car-ne car-nis con-di -

33

S. - tor. *mf* Won-drous tree, *più f* by light, by light. *(mp)*

A.I. *più f* most won - drous tree wound round by light, by light, by light. *mf*

A.II. - tor. *mf* Won-drous tree, *più f* by light, by light. *(mp)* Fair-est of trees.

T. - tor. *mf* Won-drous tree, *più f* by light, by light, by light. *mf*

B. *(mf)* *più f* Most won - drous tree wound round by light, by light. *(mp)* Fair-est of trees.

38 **Tempo I**
 ♩. = c. 38 (♩ = c. 54)

G.P. *mp*

S. Ar - bor__ de - co - ra et ful - gi -

A.I. *mp* Ar - bor__ de - co - ra et ful - gi - da,_____

A.II. *mp* Rest your-selves un - der the tree._____

T. *mp* Rest your-selves un - der the tree._____

B. _____

42

S. - da,_____ Or - na - ta re - gis pur - pu - ra._____

A.I. Or - na - ta re - gis pur - pu -

A.II. *mf* 2 *mp* *mf* Rest your-selves un - der the tree, the tree._____ Re - gis pur - pu - ra._____

T. *mf* 2 *mp* Rest your-selves un - der the tree, the tree._____

B. *mf* 2 *mp* the tree._____

46 *mf* *(mf)*

S. Rest your-selves un - der the tree, That____

A.I. - ra. Rest your-selves un - der the tree, That____

A.II. Rest your-selves, tree, That____

T. Rest your-selves un - der the tree, tree, That____

B. Rest your-selves un - der the tree, tree, That____

2

48 *f* *mf*

S. tree of which no man knows Where its roots____

A.I. tree which no man knows Where its roots run,

A.II. tree

T. tree, that tree Where its roots____

B. tree, that tree Where its roots____

2

51 *mp* *poco rit.* *Poco meno mosso* $\text{♩} = c. 46$

S. *mp* *p* *(p)* *mp*
 run, where its roots run. Old tree groans,

A.I. *mp* *p*
 where its roots run. Old tree groans,

A.II. *mp* *p* *mp*
 which noman knows. The old tree groans,

T. *mp* *p* *(p)* *mp*
 run, where its roots run. Old tree groans,

B. *mp* *p* *mp*
 run, that tree where its roots run. Groans,

55 *mp* *mf* *mp*

S. *mp* *mf*
 Sal - ve a - ra, sal - ve vic - ti - ma.

A.I. *p* *mp* *mf* *mp*
 the old tree groans, the old. Now you may know what

A.II. *p* *mp* *mf* *p*
 the old tree groans, the old tree groans.

T. *p* *mp* *mf* *p*
 the old tree groans, the old tree groans.

B. *p* *mp* *mf* *p*
 the old tree groans, the old tree groans.

60

S. *mp* Sal - ve a - ra, _____

A.I. *mf* I have en - dured _____ *(mf)* Of sore _____ sor - rows, _____ *3* sore _____

A.II. *mp* *poco* *3* *poco* *3* *mp* *3* De pas-sio-nis glo-ri - a, _____ glo - ri - a, Qua vi - ta mor - tem per -

T. *mp* *poco* *3* *poco* *3* *mp* *3* De pas-sio-nis glo-ri - a, _____ glo - ri - a, Qua vi - ta mor - tem per -

B. *mp* *poco* *3* *poco* *3* *mp* *3* De pas-sio-nis glo-ri - a, _____ glo - ri - a, Qua vi - ta mor - tem per -

64

S. *mf* sal - ve vic - ti - ma. *f* Mor-te vi - tam red - di - dit. _____

A.I. *mf* sor - rows. *f* Et mor - te vi - tam red - di - dit. _____

A.II. *mf* *3* - tu - lit. _____ *(mf)* Vic - ti - ma. *f*

T. *mf* *3* - tu - lit. _____ *(mf)* Vic - ti - ma. Et mor - te vi - tam red - di - dit. _____ *f*

B. *mf* *3* - tu - lit. _____ *(mf)* Vic - ti - ma. Et mor - te vi - tam red - di - dit. _____ *f*

69

S. *mp* What will hap-pen when it is

A.I. *mp* What will hap-pen when it is

A.II. *mp* For if they do these things— when the tree is green, *(mp)* What will hap-pen when it is

T. *mp* What will hap-pen when it is

B. *mp* What will hap-pen when it is

73

S. *p* dry? *mp* From this

A.I. *p* dry? *mp* The Lord's— rood, that gal-lows tree for man - kind's sin, *(mp)* From this

A.II. *p* dry? *mp* The Lord's— rood, that gal-lows tree for man - kind's sin, *(mp)* From this

T. *p* dry? *mp* From this

B. *p* dry?

78 *mf* *mp* (*mp*)

S. *mf* *mp* *mp*
 loaned life will fetch me a - way, And bring me then where is much

A.I. *mf* *mp*
 loaned life will fetch me a - way,

A.II. *mf* *mp*
 loaned life will fetch me a - way,

T. *mf* *mp*
 loaned life will fetch me a - way,

B. *mf* *mp*
 Loaned life will fetch me a - way,

82

S. *p*
 bliss._____

A.I. *mp* *p*
 And bring me then where there____ is much bliss._____

A.II. *mp* *p*
 And bring me then where there____ is much bliss._____

T. *mp* *p*
 And bring me then where there____ is much bliss._____

B. *p*
 bliss.

