

NEW

HORIZONS

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Secular
Solo soprano, SATB, and orchestra

— GABRIEL JACKSON —

Spring Rounds

Gabriel Jackson

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for solo soprano, SATB, and orchestra

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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Instrumentation

Piccolo
Flute
Oboe
Cor Anglais
Clarinet in B \flat
Bass Clarinet
Bassoon
Contrabassoon

4 Horns in F
2 Trumpets in C
Tuba

Percussion (1 player):
Bass drum
Tubular bells
Tam-tam
Vibraphone
Glockenspiel
Suspended cymbal

6 Violins I
6 Violins II
4 Violas
4 Violoncellos
2 Double Basses

Duration

30 minutes

Premiere

First performed by Jolanta Strikaite-Lapiņa (soprano), Youth Choir Kamēr... and orchestra, conducted by Jānis Liepiņš at the Latvian National Opera, Riga on 25 May 2015.

Commissioned by Youth Choir Kamēr... with funds provided by the
Association of Culture Institutions of Riga City Council

I

Now that the winter's gone, the earth hath lost
Her snow-white robes, and now no more the frost
Candies the grass, or casts an icy cream
Upon the silver lake or crystal stream;
But the warm sun thaws the benumbed earth,
And makes it tender; gives a sacred birth
To the dead swallow; wakes in hollow tree
The drowsy cuckoo, and the humble-bee.
Now do a choir of chirping minstrels bring
In triumph to the world the youthful Spring.
The valleys, hills, and woods in rich array
Welcome the coming of the long'd-for May.
Now all things smile, only my love doth lour;
Nor hath the scalding noonday sun the power
To melt that marble ice, which still doth hold
Her heart congeal'd, and makes her pity cold.
The ox, which lately did for shelter fly
Into the stall, doth now securely lie
In open fields; and love no more is made
By the fireside, but in the cooler shade
Amyntas now doth with his Chloris sleep.
Under a sycamore, and all things keep
Time with the season; only she doth carry
June in her eyes, in her heart January.

Thomas Carew (1595–1640)

II

I never knew the earth had so much gold—
The fields run over with it, and this hill
Hoary and old,
Is young with buoyant blooms that flame and thrill.

Such golden fires, such yellow—lo, how good
This spendthrift world, and what a lavish God!
This fringe of wood,
Blazing with buttercup and goldenrod.

You too, beloved, are changed. Again I see
Your face grow mystical, as on that night
You turned to me,
And all the trembling world—and you—were white.

Aye, you are touched; your singing lips grow dumb;
The fields absorb you, color you entire . . .
And you become
A goddess standing in a world of fire!

Louis Untermeyer (1885–1977)

III

He had a many-coloured glance like flowers:
something of opals lay within his look;
and in the taper his strong shoulders took
was gleam and grace of tall and ivory towers.
He seemed as fresh as, after summer showers,
cool gardens seem. And as the hart the brook
thirsty I sought his mouth. Never was book
better perused than I his brow, long hours.
Two full-carved rubies were his urgent lips.
Heavy as floating lilies on the Nile
hung the white waxen lids, behind whose smile
the jewels of Palmyra and of Spain
had humbled to the windows of his brain.
Still past their lashes – still, the treasure slips?

Edward James (1907–84)

IV

You little stars that live in skies
And glory in Apollo's glory,
In whose aspects conjoined lies
The heaven's will and nature's story,
Joy to be likened to those eyes,
Which eyes make all eyes glad or sorry;
For when you force thoughts from above,
These overrule your force by love.

And thou, O Love, which in these eyes
Hast married Reason with Affection,
And made them saints of Beauty's skies,
Where joys are shadows of perfection,
Lend me thy wings that I may rise
Up, not by worth, but thy election;
For I have vowed in strangest fashion
To love and never seek compassion.

Fulke Greville, 1st Baron Brooke (1554–1628)

V

Skaiti zvaigznes, Mēnestiņi,
 Vai ir visas vakarā.
 Ir gan visas, ir gan visas,
 Auseklīša vien nevaids.
 Auseklītis aiztecēja
 Gar Daugavu dziedādamis,
 Gar Daugavu dziedādamis,
 Saules meitu lūkoties.
 Dod, Saulīte, kam dodama,
 Auseklim vien nedod!

*Count the stars, father Moon,
 see if all are there at night.
 Yes, they are, they are,
 but wait, Morning Star is missing.
 Morning Star rode along
 the River Daugava, singing,
 along the Daugava, singing
 and searching for the daughter of the Sun.
 Give your daughter to whom you wish, dear Sun
 just don't give her to Morning Star.*

Latvju dainas 33857-2

(English translation by Rita Ruduša)

VI

Nothing is so beautiful as spring—
 When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;
 Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush
 Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring
 The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;
 The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush
 The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush
 With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.

What is all this juice and all this joy?
 A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning
 In Eden garden.—Have, get, before it cloy,
 Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,
 Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,
 Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.

Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-89)

If ever there were a spring day so perfect,
so uplifted by a warm intermittent breeze

that it made you want to throw
open all the windows in the house

and unlatch the door to the canary's cage,
indeed, rip the little door from its jamb,

a day when the cool brick paths
and the garden bursting with peonies

seemed so etched in sunlight
that you felt like taking

a hammer to the glass paperweight
on the living room end table,

releasing the inhabitants
from their snow-covered cottage

so they could walk out,
holding hands and squinting

into this larger dome of blue and white,
well, today is just that kind of day.

Billy Collins (b. 1941)

Spring Rounds

I

GABRIEL JACKSON

Quick ♩ = c. 96

SOPRANO

f

Now that the win - ter's gone, the earth hath lost Her snow-white robes,

Quick ♩ = c. 96

ff f ff

for rehearsal only

5

S.

f

and now no more the

Pno.

f ff f

9

S.

frost Can - dies the grass,

Pno.

ff f

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13

T. *p* or casts an i - - cy

B. *p* or casts an i - - cy

Pno. *ff* *p*

17

T. *mp* cream U - pon the sil - - ver

B. *mp* cream U - pon the sil - - ver

Pno. *f* *p* *mp* 7

19

T. *p* lake or cry - - , stal stream

B. *p* lake or cry - - , stal stream

Pno. *ff* *p* *ff*

22

f

S. But the warm sun thaws the be-

A. But the warm sun thaws the be-

T. But the warm sun thaws the be-

B. But the warm sun thaws the be-

Pno. *f* *f* *tr*

25

mf *p*

S. numb - ed earth, And makes it ten - der;

A. - numb - ed earth, And makes it ten - der;

T. numb - ed earth, And makes it ten - der;

B. numb - ed earth, And makes it ten - der;

Pno. *fp* *fp* *mp* *p* *f*

29

S. *f* gives a sa - - cred birth

A. *f* gives a sa - - cred birth

T. *f* gives a sa - - cred birth

B. *f* gives a sa - - cred birth

Pno. *ff* *f* *fp* *fp* *mp*

33

S. *mf* *p* To the dead - - - - - swal-low; -

A. *mf* *p* To the dead - - - - - swal-low; -

T. *mf* *p* To the dead - - - - - swal-low; -

B. *mf* *p* To the dead - - - - - swal-low; -

Pno. *p* *mf* *tr*

36

S. *f* wakes in hol - low tree The

A. *f* wakes in hol - low tree The

T. *f* wakes in hol - low tree The

B. *f* wakes in hol - low tree The

Pno. *ff* *f*

40

S. *mf* drow - - - sy cuc-koo, -

A. *mf* drow - - - sy cuc-koo, -

T. *mf* drow - - - sy cuc-koo, -

B. *mf* drow - - - sy cuc-koo, -

Pno. *mf* *p* *f*

44 *mp*

S. and the hum - - - - - ble - bee. _____

A. *mp* and the hum - - - - - ble - bee. _____

T. *mp* and the hum - - - - - ble - bee. _____

B. _____

Pno. *mf* *mp* *ff*

8va

trill

3

47 *mp* *mf*

S. Now do a choir of

A. *mp* *mf* Now do a choir of

T. *mp* *mf* Now do a choir of

B. *mp* *mf* Now do a choir of

Pno. *mf*

8va

trill

3

50

S. *mp* chirp - - - ing min - strels *mf* bring In Tri-umph to the

A. *mp* chirp - - - ing min - strels *mf* bring In Tri - umph to the

T. *mp* chirp - - - ing min - strels *mf* bring In Tri - umph to the

B. *mp* chirp - - - ing min - strels *mf* bring In Tri-umph to the

Pno.

53

S. *f* world the youth - - - ful Spring.

A. *f* world the youth - - - ful Spring.

T. *f* world the youth - - - ful Spring.

B. *f* world the youth - - - ful Spring.

Pno. *f mp*

56 *mp*

S. The val - - leys, hills and woods in rich

A. The val - - leys, hills and woods in rich

T. The val - - leys, hills and woods in rich

B. The val - - leys, hills and woods in rich

Pno.

59 *f* *mf*

S. ar - ray Wel - - - - - come the

A. ar - ray Wel - - - - - come the

T. ar - ray Wel - - - - - come the

B. ar - ray Wel - - - - - come the

Pno. *f* *ff* *mf*