

GREG BARTHOLOMEW

The Tree

A setting of the poem by 19th Century American poet
Jones Very

for unaccompanied mixed choir
with piano reduction for rehearsal only

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The Tree



Jones Very (1813 – 1880)

I love thee when thy swelling buds appear,
And one by one their tender leaves unfold,
As if they knew that warmer suns were near,
Nor longer sought to hide from winter's cold;
And when with darker growth thy leaves are seen
To veil from view the early robin's nest,
I love to lie beneath thy waving screen,
With limbs by summer's heat and toil oppress'd;
And when the autumn winds have stript thee bare,
And round thee lies the smooth, untrodden snow,
When naught is thine that made thee once so fair,
I love to watch thy shadowy form below,
And through thy leafless arms to look above
On stars that brighter beam when most we need their love.

For unaccompanied mixed choir
with piano reduction for rehearsal only

Duration: 3 minutes

The Tree was composed at the 2003 Oxford Summer Institutes at Lehigh, where it received a reading by the Princeton Singers under the direction of Steven Sametz. The premiere performances were given by the American University Chamber Singers under the direction of Daniel Abraham on April 2 and 3, 2004, at the Harold & Sylvia Greenberg Theatre, Washington, D.C.

For information about composer Greg Bartholomew, visit www.gregbartholomew.com.

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For Richard G. Hutter

The Tree

Jones Very
(1813 - 1880)

Greg Bartholomew
(b. 1957)

$\text{♩} = 90$ *Broadly, in awe of the miracle*

mp *mf*

Soprano
I love thee _____ when thy swell - ing buds ap - pear, and one by one thy

Alto
I love thee _____ when thy swell - ing buds ap - pear, and one by

Tenor
I love thee _____ when thy swell - ing buds ap - pear, and

Bass
I love thee _____ when thy swell - ing buds ap - pear, and one

Piano

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A a little faster
 $\text{♩} = 100$

8

ten - der leaves un - fold, As if they knew that _____ warm

one thy leaves un - fold, As if they knew, they knew warm

one by one their leaves un - fold, They knew that warm - er

by one un - fold, As if they knew, knew that warm - er

A a little faster
 $\text{♩} = 100$

15

suns were near, nor long - er sought to hide from win - ter's cold;

suns were near, nor long - er sought to hide from win - ter's cold;

suns were near, nor long - er sought to hide from win - ter's cold;

suns were near, as if they no long - er sought to hide from win - ter's cold;

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21

B *mf* **rall.**

To veil from view the ear - ly ro - bin's nest,

To veil from view the ear - ly ro - bin's nest,

And when with dark - er growth thy leaves are seen to veil from view the ro - bin's nest,

And when with dark - er growth thy leaves are seen to veil from view the ro - bin's nest,

B **rall.**

29 **C** a little slower $\text{♩} = 90$

I love to lie beneath thy waving screen,
I love to lie beneath thy waving screen,
I love to lie beneath thy waving screen,
I love to lie beneath thy waving screen,

C $\text{♩} = 90$

Perusal Copy

34

I lie with limbs by summer's heat and toil oppressed;
I lie with limbs by summer's heat and toil oppressed;
I love to lie with limbs by summer's heat and toil oppressed;
I love to lie with limbs by summer's heat and toil oppressed;

D a little faster
♩ = 100

41

mp

And round thee lies the smooth, un-trod-den

mp

And round thee lies the smooth

mp

And when the au-tumn winds have stript thee bare, and round lies smooth

mp

And when the aut-umn winds have stript thee bare, and round lies smooth

D a little faster
♩ = 100

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49

E *rallentando*

snow, when naught is thine that made thee once so fair,

snow, when naught is thine that made thee once so fair,

snow, when naught is thine that made thee once so fair,

snow, when naught is thine that made thee once so fair,

E *rallentando*

56 *a tempo* *mf*

I love to watch thy sha - dow - y form be - low,

mf *mp*

I love to watch thy sha - dow - y form be - low, and

mf *p*

I love to watch thy sha - dow - y form be - low, thy sha - dow be - low,

mf *mp*

I love to watch thy sha - dow - y form be - low, and

a tempo *mf*

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63 **F** *p* *mp* *mf*

Through through thy leave - less arms to

p *mp* *mf*

through, through thy leave - less arms to

p *mp* *mf*

Through, through thy leave - less arms to

p *mp* *mf*

through, I love to look, I love to

F

68

look a - bove on stars that bright - er beam when

look a - bove on stars that bright - er beam when

look a - bove on stars that bright - er beam when

look a - bove on stars that bright - er beam when

Perusal Copy

73

most we need their love.

most we need their love.

most we need their love.

most we need their love.