



THIS PLACE

SELECTED CHORAL WORKS



IMPERIAL COLLEGE CHAMBER CHOIR & PATRICK ALLIES

Tracklist

1	The Dog That Sat <i>Peter Tranchell</i>	2.50
2	TāReKiȚa <i>Reena Esmail</i>	2.03
3	Shenandoah <i>arr. James Erb</i>	3.42
4	Locus iste <i>Derri Lewis</i>	3.58
5	The Road Home <i>arr. Stephen Paulus</i>	3.39
6	The 23rd Psalm (Dedicated To My Mother) <i>Bobby McFerrin</i>	3.20
7	Star of the County Down <i>arr. Ben Parry</i>	3.23
8	Hark, I Hear The Harps Eternal <i>arr. Alice Parker</i>	2.07
9	Love Bade Me Welcome <i>David Hurd</i>	2.54
10	Let My Love Be Heard <i>Jake Runestad</i>	4.41
11	In paradisum <i>Galina Grigorjeva</i>	3.03
12	Here Is The Little Door <i>Herbert Howells</i>	3.27
13	Kvöldvers <i>Tryggvi M. Baldvinsson</i>	3.35
14	We Shall Walk Through The Valley <i>arr. Undine Smith Moore</i>	2.44
15	Lux aeterna <i>Pallav Bagchi</i>	2.52
16	Be Still, My Soul <i>Jean Sibelius arr. Patrick Allies</i>	4.44
	Total running time	53.06

Programme Note

This Place

The impetus for this recording came from Derri Lewis' sparkling *Locus iste*. Lewis uses just these two Latin words and their English equivalents to create a sense of excitement about a particular place. The rest of the recital is likewise connected to ideas of place and belonging, whether in terms of the home, the embrace of a lover, or a place of spiritual respite and peace. While the theme relates principally to the repertoire, it also acknowledges the chamber choir's own position within Imperial College London, and the musical home that its members find in the choir.

James Erb's arrangement of *Shenandoah* is more explicit in its celebration of one geographical place: the Shenandoah Valley. The song's origins are obscure, but James Erb's arrangement is clear-sighted, adding nothing to the melody

of the first two verses before using rich, deep harmonies to underpin the third verse. The first verse then returns as a three-part canon between the upper voices. A more unsettling sense of place is presented in Peter Tranchell's *The Dog That Sat*. Tranchell's witty, poignant part-song sets a newspaper clipping about a dog abandoned by a Suffolk roadside.

Home

Frances Chesterton's poem, *Here Is The Little Door*, is written from the perspective of the Magi as they encounter the infant Jesus in a Bethlehem house. Herbert Howells' music illuminates the kings' gifts with powerful chordal writing, and his sparing use of dissonance creates a sense of wonder at the words 'and oh such tiny feet'.

Alongside this are two more recent additions to the repertoire that relate to

Programme Note

themes of homelessness. Reena Esmail wrote *TāReKiTa* in 2016 for a choir called Urban Voices Project, formed of singers who are currently experiencing homelessness, or have recently done so. The piece uses onomatopoeic syllables inspired by the Indian tabla drum.

Kvöldvers, by Tryggvi M. Baldvinsson, takes the form of a melancholy Christian hymn, reflecting on the gathering darkness and the long road that must be taken to reach home. Imperial College Chamber Choir learnt this piece as part of a collaboration with the Iceland Philharmonic Choir who visited South Kensington in 2025.

Love

Finding your place beside someone is also a recurring theme of the disc. This takes the form of youthful infatuation, as in Ben Parry's spectacular, jazz-infused arrangement of *The Star of the County Down*. The song, which the choir learnt ahead of recent performances in Northern Ireland, has nineteenth-century

origins. Stephen Paulus also takes a traditional tune from the same era in *The Road Home*, adding simple but satisfying lines for the lower voices, and a soaring soprano solo.

David Hurd's *Love Bade Me Welcome* takes famous words by the poet and priest George Herbert. This is an exploration not of romantic attachment, but of God's love. Hurd's setting is entirely homophonic, drawing on a rich set of harmonies to express the complex dialogue between humanity and the divine. Likewise, Bobby McFerrin's *The 23rd Psalm (Dedicated To My Mother)* is a reflection on unconditional love, in this case channeled through motherhood. McFerrin sets an altered version of the biblical text using a simple, repetitive musical pattern, allowing the nuanced meaning of the words to come to the fore.

Paradise

Linking feelings of love to meditations on the afterlife is *Let My Love Be Heard*

Programme Note

by the US composer Jake Runestad (b. 1986). This piece opens and closes with slow, lyrical phrases sending Alfred Noyes' prayerful reflections on grief heavenwards. By contrast, the central section of the pieces builds gradually to a passionate cry. Similar themes around loss are put forward in *Be Still, My Soul*, the well-loved hymn by Jean Sibelius, presented here in a new arrangement.

Galina Grigorjeva (b. 1962) was born in Ukraine, but has been living and working in Estonia since the 1990s. Grigorjeva's *In paradisum*, a setting of a text from the Requiem mass, begins in a ghostly manner, building gradually to exultation at the arrival into the holy, heavenly city of Jerusalem.

A buoyant vision of paradise is offered by Alice Parker in her arrangement of *Hark, I Hear The Harps Eternal*. Parker pairs words by the nineteenth-century US physician and writer Frederic Rowland Marvin with a hymn tune from the same era known as Invitation New, with which Marvin's words have long been

associated. *We Shall Walk Through the Valley*, sung here in an elegant arrangement by Undine Smith Moore, dates back at least as far as the formerly enslaved soldiers who contributed to the post-Civil War collection *Slave Songs of the United States*.

Imperial College Chamber Choir has a long tradition of fostering the compositional talents of its student members. At the choir's evensong services at Holy Trinity, South Kensington, a new psalm chant is composed for each service by a choir member. It is in this spirit that the funeral text *Lux aeterna*, set by Pallav Bagchi, an undergraduate studying Aeronautical Engineering, has been included on this recording.

© Patrick Allies

Texts & Translations

1 The Dog That Sat

Text: 'Words from a report in a newspaper'

The dog picked up at
a roadside yesterday
could hardly be called a stray.
It had not moved for at least fifteen hours.

It is thought by those who
understand the canine mind
that someone ordered the dog to sit
and simply walked away.

The nameless collarless black and white
mongrel (terrier type) then sat
by the side of the road at
Wherstead in Suffolk
through a cold and foggy night.

It was noticed by a cyclist pedalling home
at six p.m. the day before yesterday.
He saw it again as he cycled to work
at eight a.m. yesterday morning.

He reported to the R.S.P.C.A.'s
Inspector at Ipswich,
"The dog has not budged.
I was so touched that I shared my
sandwiches with it."

The Inspector found the dog
still sitting there.
At first it refused to move,
so he slipped a collar on its neck
and pulled it away.

He said it had been a vile foggy night,
and as the dog moved away,
you could see the impression on the
ground where it had been
sitting all those hours.

"I could tell from its great
reluctance to leave
that the dog was obeying a command.
We shall treat this as a
case of a dog abandoned,
since it is unlikely that the owner will
come forward."

Texts & Translations

The dog picked up at
a roadside yesterday
could hardly be called a stray.

3 Shenandoah

Text: Traditional American Folksong

O Shenando', I long to see you,
And hear your rollin' river,
O Shenando', I long to see you,
'Way, we're bound away,
Across the wide Missouri.

I long to see your smiling valley,
And hear your rolling river,
I long to see your smiling valley,
'Way, we're bound away,
Across the wide Missouri.

'Tis sev'n long years since last I see you,
And hear your rolling river,
'Tis sev'n long years since last I see you,
'Way, we're bound away,
Across the wide Missouri.

O Shenando', I long to see you,
And hear your rolling river,
O Shenando', I long to see you,
'Way, we're bound away,
Across the wide Missouri.

4 Locus iste

Locus iste
This place

5 The Road Home

Text: Michael Dennis Browne

Tell me where is the road
I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost,
So long ago?
All these years I have wandered,
Oh, when will I know
There's a way, there's a road
That will lead me home?

After wind, after rain,
When the dark is done,

Texts & Translations

As I wake from a dream
In the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling
From far away,
There's a voice I can hear
That will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me,
Come away is the call,
With love in your heart
As the only song;
There is no such beauty
As where you belong,
Rise up, follow me,
I will lead you home.

6 The 23rd Psalm (Dedicated To My Mother)

Text: Adapted from the Book of Psalms

The Lord is my Shepherd,
I have all I need,
She makes me lie down
in green meadows
Beside the still waters she will lead,

She restores my soul,
She rights my wrongs,
She leads me in a path of good things,
And fills my heart with songs.

Even though I walk through
a dark and dreary land,
There is nothing that can shake me
She has said She won't forsake me,
I'm in her hand.

She sets a table before me,
in the presence of my foes,
She anoints my head with oil
And my cup overflows.

Surely, surely, goodness and
kindness will follow me
All the days of my life,
And I will live in her house
For ever, for ever and ever.

Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter
And to the holy of holies,
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be
World without end. Amen

Texts & Translations

7 Star of the County Down

Text: Irish traditional

Near to Banbridge Town in the
County Down on a morning in July
Down a boreen green came a sweet
Colleen and she smiled as
she pass'd me by.
Oh she looked so neat from her
two white feet to the
sheen of her nut brown hair,
Such a coaxing elf I'd to shake meself
to make sure she was really there.
From Bantry Bay up to Derry Quay
and from Galway to Dublin Town
No maid I've seen like the brown
Colleen that I met in the County Down
Star of the County Down.

As she onward sped I scratch'd my head
and I gazed with a feeling quare.
There I said, says I, to a passer by,
"Who's the girl with the nut brown hair?"
Oh he smiled at me and with pride says he
"That's the gem of Ireland's crown
Young Rosie McCann from the banks of the

Bann, she's the Star of the County Down."
From Bantry Bay up to Derry Quay
and from Galway to Dublin Town
No maid I've seen like the brown Colleen
that I met in the County Down.

At the harvest fair she'll be surely there
and I'll dress in my Sunday clothes,
And I'll try sheep's eyes and delud'thrin
lies on the heart of the nut brown rose.
No pipe I'll smoke, no horse I'll yoke tho'
my plough with rust turn brown,
'Till a smiling bride by my own fire-side
sits the Star of the County Down.
From Bantry Bay up to Derry Quay and
from Galway to Dublin Town
No maid I've seen like the brown Colleen
that I met in the County Down.

8 Hark, I Hear The Harps Eternal

Text: Traditional American folk hymn

Hark, I hear the harps eternal
Ringing on the farther shore,
As I near those swollen waters,
With their deep and solemn roar.

Texts & Translations

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
praise the Lamb,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Glory to the great I AM,

And my soul though stained with sorrow,
Fading as the light of day,
Passes swiftly o'er those waters
To the city far away.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
praise the Lamb,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Glory to the great I AM!

Souls have crossed before me, saintly,
To that land of perfect rest;
And I hear them singing faintly
In the mansions of the blest

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
praise the Lamb,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Glory to the great I AM!

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
praise the Lamb,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Glory to the great I AM!

9 Love Bade Me Welcome

Text: George Herbert

Love bade me welcome:
yet my soul drew back,
guiltie of dust and sinne.
But quicke'y'd Love
observing me grow slack
from my first entrance in,
drew nearer to me,
sweetly questioning,
if I lacked anything.

A guest, I answer'd,
worthy to be here:
Love said, You shall be he.
I, the unkinde, ungratefull?
Ah, my deare, I cannot look on thee.
Love took my hand
and smiling did reply,
Who made the eyes but I?

Texts & Translations

Truth, Lord but I have marr'd them:
let my shame go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, sayes Love,
who bore the blame?
My deare, then I will serve.
You must sit down, sayes Love,
and taste my meat:
so I did sit and eat.

10 Let My Love Be Heard

Text: Alfred Noyes

Angels where you soar
up to God's own light,
Take my own lost bird
on your hearts tonight,
And as grief once more
mounts to heaven and sings,
Let my love be heard
whispering in your wings.

11 In paradisum

Text: Traditional Latin antiphon

*In paradisum deducant te angeli:
in tuo adventu suscipiant te martyres,
et perducant te in
civitatem sanctam Ierusalem.
Chorus angelorum te suscipiant
et cum Lazaro quondam paupere
aeternam habeas requiem.*

English translation: Into Paradise

May the angels lead you into paradise;
may the martyrs greet you at your arrival
and lead you into the
holy City of Jerusalem.
May the choir of angels greet you
and like Lazarus, who once was a poor man,
may you have eternal rest.



Texts & Translations

12 Here Is The Little Door

Text: Frances Chesterton

Here is the little door,
lift up the latch, oh lift!
We need not wander more
but enter with our gift;
Our gift of finest gold.
Gold that was never bought nor sold;
Myrrh to be strewn about His bed;
Incense in clouds about His head;
All for the Child that stirs not in His sleep,
But holy slumber holds with ass and sheep.

Bend low about His bed,
for each He has a gift;
See how His eyes awake,
lift up your hands, O lift!
For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword
(Defend with it Thy little Lord!)
For incense, smoke of battle red
Myrrh for the honoured happy dead;
Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet;
Touched by such tiny hands
and Oh such tiny feet.

13 Kvöldvers

Text: Halgrímur Pétursson

*Sólin til fjalla fljótt
fer að sjóndeildarhring.
Tekur að nálgast nótt,
neyðin er allt um kring.
Dimmt er í heimi hér,
hættur er vegurinn.
Ljosið þitt lýsi mér
lifandi Jesú minn.*

English Translation: Noël Burgess

Sunset behind the hill
Soon it will fade out of sight
Gloom all about me still;
Now it will soon be night.
Darkness is all I meet,
My way is fraught with strife;
Thy radiance guides my feet,
Jesu, light of my life

Texts & Translations

14 We Shall Walk Through The Valley

Text: Traditional spiritual

We shall walk through the valley in peace.
If Jesus himself shall be our leader,
we shall walk through the valley in peace.

There will be no trials there.
If Jesus himself shall be our leader,
we shall walk through the valley in peace.

15 Lux aeterna

Text: Traditional Latin antiphon

*Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine,
Cum sanctis tuis in aeternum,
quia pius es.
Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,
Et cum sanctis tuis in aeternum,
quia pius es.*

English translation: Eternal Light

May eternal light shine on them, Lord,
with your saints for ever,
for you are good.
Give them eternal rest, Lord,
with your saints for ever,
for you are good.

Texts & Translations

16 Be Still, My Soul

Text: Katharina von Schlegel

Be still, my soul:
the Lord is on thy side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul:
thy best, thy heavenly friend
Through thorny ways
leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul:
your God does undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence
let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still, my soul:
the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while
He dwelt below

Be still, my soul:
when dearest friends depart,
And all is darkened in the vale of tears.
Then shalt thou better know
His love, His heart,
Who comes to soothe thy sorrow
and thy fears.

Be still, my soul:
the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief,
and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored!

Be still, my soul:
when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed
we shall meet at last.

Acknowledgements



The Egerique Garcia de la Concha Family
Nicolette James
Maria Priestland
Naomi Law
The Melville Family
Michael and Sally Law
Ria Brombley
Maria Portela
Ian Walmsley and Katharine Pardee
Celia Tinsley
Goncalo Gaspar
Peter Tranchell Foundation
Blyth Centre for Music and Visual Arts

Biographies

Imperial College Chamber Choir is one of London's leading student choirs. Based at Imperial's South Kensington campus, the choir is formed of 30 undergraduate and postgraduate singers studying STEM subjects. Founded in 2011, the choir gives regular concerts and sings bi-weekly Evensong services under its director Patrick Allies. The choir also takes on special projects, which have recently included its first appearance on BBC Radio 3's *Choral Evensong*, and performances at the Natural History Museum and Southwark Cathedral. The choir tours frequently, with previous destinations including Italy, Spain, Estonia, Finland and Switzerland. This is the choir's second recording, following its debut album *Perihelion*, released in 2021.



Biographies

Biographies

Patrick Allies is a conductor and musicologist based in London. He is a Visiting Artist and Researcher at King's College London, Artistic Director of the vocal ensemble Siglo de Oro, and Musical Director of Imperial College Chamber Choir. After beginning his musical education as a chorister at the Temple Church, Patrick sang in Gloucester Cathedral Choir before taking up a choral scholarship to study music at King's College London. Patrick went on to postgraduate study at the University of Cambridge. Patrick is a doctoral student in music at the University of Oxford. Patrick's research, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, involves the relationship between fifteenth-century choirs and their performance spaces.



Performers

Soprano 1

Daria Ditri
Hannah Gheel
Catherine James*
Anika Bisaria
Wendy Wang

Soprano 2

Clara Bollen Gandolfo
Olivia Priestland
Iona Biggart**
Raquel Sofia
Asha de Silva

Alto 1

Amarachi Ohanusi
Urbi Modhura
Clara Graham

Alto 2

Aditi Mehendale
Amy Collis
Sebastian Tsang
Joshua Swaby

Tenor 1

Robin Flower
Tomas Bezkorowajnyj
Luca White

Tenor 2

Pallav Bagchi
George Raynor
Jean Larbodiére
Harry Tomlins

Bass 1

Ben Connolly
Pablo Egerique Garcia de la Concha
Daniel Kaupa***
Archie Thompson

Bass 2

George Bindloss
Kiyam Eddaoudi
Owen Brook
James Porter

Soloists: *The Road Home **Hark I Hear the Harps Eternal ***Be Still, My Soul

Credits

THIS PLACE

IMPERIAL COLLEGE CHAMBER CHOIR
& PATRICK ALLIES

Recorded

All Saints Tooting, 26th to 28th June 2025

Cover image

Kiyan Eddaoudi

Engineer

Adaq Khan

Producer

George Richford



Mixing / Editing

George Richford

Creative Director

Mike Cooter

Executive Producer

Adrian Green

Every effort has been made to secure necessary permissions to reproduce copyright material in this booklet, although in some cases it has proven difficult to locate copyright holders. If any omissions are brought to our notice, we would be pleased to include appropriate acknowledgements in subsequent pressings. www.conviviumrecords.co.uk