

COME AND SING

Seán Doherty

2022

SS and Organ/Piano

TEXT

Come and sing a merry measure
With our voices all in time,
And our notes together blending
Like the bells in a sweet chime.

Lo, around us all is thrilling
With a deep melodious tone,
And each chord in earth and heaven
Hath a music of its own.

All the green leaves in the woodland
With a life of sound are stirr'd,
And far up in the blue ether
Sings the heaven-loving bird.

E'en the wild winds through the mountains
Make strange music as they go,
And the waters moving swiftly
Bear a cadence in their flow.

Thus our Mother Nature teacheth,
With her many voices strong,
For she moveth to a measure
And her every pulse is song.

Come and join in the full chorus
With a glad and grateful sound,
Let not man alone be silent
When all else is singing round.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–95)

PROGRAMME NOTE

'Come and Sing' was written to celebrate the establishment of a girls' choir at St Columb's Cathedral, Derry. The text is by Irish hymn writer Cecil Frances Alexander, famous for her Christmas carol 'Once in Royal David's City'. Alexander had a long connection with this cathedral and she looks down on the young singers from her stained-glass portrait in the nave. She wrote the poem of 'Come and Sing' for the music educationalist John Hullah (1812–84). This explains the pedagogical nature of the poem, which uses musical terminology used as metaphors throughout the poem, for example, measure, chord, cadence, and pulse. I wanted to include the most famous melody of 'Once in Royal David's City' to highlight the historical association of the cathedral with Alexander's most famous hymn. The well-known melody by Henry Gauntlett (1805–76) is used as a descant in the final verse.

Performance Time: c. 3 mins

For Nicky Morton and Louis Fields
on the Establishment of St Columb's Cathedral Girls' Choir

Come and Sing

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–95)

SEÁN DOHERTY (b.1987)

Allegretto ♩ = 60

f

Soprano

Come and sing a mer - ry mea - sure with our voi - ces all in time, And our notes to - ge - ther

Organ or Piano

mf

8

S.

blend - ing Like the bells in a sweet chime. Lo! a - round us all is thrill - ing With a

Org.

15

S.

deep mel - o - dious tone, And each chord in earth and hea - ven Hath a mu - sic of its own.

Org.

22

S.

All the green leaves in the wood - land With a life of sound are stirred, And far

Org.

27

S. up in the blue — e - ther Sings the hea - ven - lov - ing bird. E'en the

Org.

33

S. wild winds through the moun - tains Make strangem u - sic as they go, And the wa - ters mov - ing

Org.

38

S. swift - ly — Bear a ca - dence in their flow. Thus our

Org.

rit. Adagio *p*

43

S. Mo - ther Na - ture teach - eth, — With her ma - ny voi - ces strong, For she mov - eth to — a

Org.

f A tempo

48

S. mea - sure — And her ev - ery pulse is song.

Org.

52 *f*

S. 1 Come and join in the full cho - rus With a glad and

S. 2 *f* Come and join in the full cho - rus With a glad and grate - ful sound, Let not man a - lone be si - lent. When all

Org.

59

S. 1 grate - ful sound, Let not man a - lone be si - lent

S. 2 else is sing - ing round. Come and join in the full cho - rus With a glad and grate - ful sound, Let not

Org.

65

S. 1 When all else is sing - ing round.

S. 2 man a - lone be si - lent. When all else is sing - ing round.

Org.