

Alec Roth – A TIME TO DANCE – words by various authors

cantata for SATB soloists, choir and orchestra

commissioned by the Summer Music Society of Dorset to commemorate its 50th anniversary

first performed by Grace Davidson (soprano), Matthew Venner (alto), Jeremy Budd (tenor), Greg Skidmore (bass), Ex Cathedra, Ex Cathedra Baroque Ensemble, Jeffrey Skidmore (conductor), Sherborne Abbey, 9 June 2012

Processional (optional)

Prologue: Sunrise

Part 1: Spring Morning

Part 2: Summer Noon

Part 3: Autumn Evening

Part 4: Winter Night

Epilogue: Sunrise

Recessional (optional)

A Time to Dance celebrates the 'times' and 'seasons' of human existence. The words are drawn from a wide range of sources including Aphra Behn, William Blake, Emily Bronte, Emily Dickinson, John Donne, Ernest Dowson, Christopher Marlowe, Christina Rossetti, and Edward Thomas (see below for full text).

The music uses the same orchestral forces as J S Bach's *Magnificat*, and is composed so that it can be played on period instruments or on modern instruments. Each of the four main sections features a different vocal soloist: the soprano in Spring Morning, the tenor in Summer Noon, the alto in Autumn Evening, and the bass in Winter Night.

DURATION

ca. 56 minutes (ca. 48 minutes if the optional Processional and Recessional are omitted)

FORCES REQUIRED

Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass soloists

Mixed Choir (SATB)

Orchestra: 2 Flutes; 2 Oboes doubling Oboe d'amore; Bassoon; 3 Trumpets in D; 1 Percussion (Large Bass Drum; Small Bass Drum with pedal; Tomtom; Suspended Cymbal; Dinner Gong; 2 Hand-bells or Hand-chimes; Desk Bell; Two Triangles; Sleigh-bells; Tambourine; Woodblock; Fly-swat; Birch/Ruthe);

Chamber Organ (or keyboard/synth); and Strings.

N.B. The music is composed so that it may be played on either (Bach) period or modern instruments.

PERFORMANCE MATERIALS

Full Score

Vocal Score

Orchestral Parts

TEXT

Click here to see the [full text](#) of *A Time to Dance*.

REVIEWS

"*Roth is a magician . . .*" (Birmingham Post)

Click here to read a selection of [reviews](#) of *A Time to Dance*