

Alec Roth – AUTUMNAL – words by John Donne

for medium voice and guitar, or harp, or keyboard

first sung at a private performance by Lis Wood's birthday by Sally Bradshaw (mezzo-soprano) with Andrea Grant (piano), St Iberius Church, Wexford, Ireland, 27 October 2010

original guitar version first performed by Mark Padmore (tenor) and Morgan Szymanski (guitar), recording for Signum CD, 18 November 2010

The words are taken from 'The Autumnal' by John Donne (1572-1631):

*No spring nor summer beauty hath such grace
As I have seen in one autumnal face.*

*Young beauties force our love, and that's a rape,
This doth but counsel, yet you cannot scape.
If 'twere a shame to love, here 'twere no shame;
Affection here takes reverence's name.*

*Were her first years the golden age? That's true,
But now she's gold oft tried and ever new.
That was her torrid and inflaming time,
This is her tolerable tropic clime.*

*This is Love's timber, youth his underwood;
There he, as wine in June, enrages blood,
Which then comes seasonanbliest when our taste
And appetite to other things is past.*

*Here where still evening is, not noon nor night,
Where no voluptuousness, yet all delight.
In all her words, unto all hearers fit,
You may at revels, you at council, sit.*

*If we love things long sought, age is a thing
Which we are fifty years in compassing;
If transitory things, which soon decay,
Age must be loveliest at the latest day.*

DURATION

ca. 4 minutes

FORCES REQUIRED

Voice (medium range) with Guitar or Harp or Keyboard

(A shortened version for Choir and Orchestra is incorporated into the cantata [A Time to Dance](#))

PERFORMANCE MATERIALS

Score

SCORE SAMPLE

Click here for a sample page of the [Score](#)