

Alec Roth – **DOLPHIN SONGS** – words by Vikram Seth

three songs for children's choir and piano (or chamber orchestra), adapted from the opera *Arion and the Dolphin*
first performed by Trinity Boys' Choir conducted by David Swinson, Fairfield Hall, Croydon, 25 April 2002

1. Fish Supper Song
2. Dionysos and the Pirates
3. Round and Round

The opera *Arion and the Dolphin* was commissioned by English National Opera and first performed in 1994 at the Drill Shed, HMS Drake, Plymouth. These three songs, adapted for concert use from Scene 6 of the opera, were first performed by Trinity Boys' Choir conducted by David Swinson in 2002.

The opera tells the story of the young musician Arion who travels to Sicily for a music festival where he wins all the prizes. On the return voyage the sailors, greedy for his gold, plot to kill him. Arion asks to sing one last song and then leaps into the sea, sinking beneath the waves into a dark underwater world, full of strange clicking and whistling sounds. He believes that this experience is death, but, attracted by his beautiful singing, a pod of music-loving dolphins has arrived to rescue him. In the three Dolphin Songs, they invite him to share their supper and present an entertainment revealing some of the mysteries and joys of dolphin life.

DURATION

ca. 12 minutes

(Individual Songs may be performed separately)

FORCES REQUIRED

Children's Choir (SA with divisions and some solo parts)

Piano (playing from the Vocal Score)

Chamber Orchestra version:

1(+picc+alto), 0, 2(2nd+bass), 0 - 2, 1, 0, 0 - harp, keyboard, 2 percussion - strings

PERFORMANCE MATERIALS

Vocal Score

Chamber Orchestra version: Full Score and Orchestral Parts

SCORE SAMPLES

Click here for sample pages of the [Vocal Score](#)