

Alec Roth – **MAGNIFICAT & NUNC DIMITTIS** – Hatfield Service

for choir and chamber organ (left hand)

first performed by the Chapel Choir, Matthew Charlton (director), Nicholas Arden (organ), Hatfield College, Durham, 15 June 2008

COMPOSER'S NOTE

This setting of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis was composed during my residence in 2008 as Visiting Fellow at Hatfield College, University of Durham, and the first performance was given by the College Chapel Choir, directed by Matthew Charlton, with Nicholas Arden (organ) at Evensong on the 15th of June that year. These two texts have been subjected to an enormous variety of treatment by a host of composers. For my setting, I wanted to provide something quite simple and functional for everyday liturgical use, perhaps emphasising the intimate nature of what are essentially the song of a young woman and the song of an old man. The organ part, although it can be played on a larger instrument, is designed for a small chamber organ with just three stops (8' 4' 2'), and is written so that it can be played using the left hand only. This leaves the player's right hand free to direct the choir, turn pages, pull out a stop, pop in a peppermint, etc.

DURATION

Magnificat: ca. 3½ minutes

Nunc Dimittis: ca. 3 minutes

TEXT

Book of Common Prayer 1662

FORCES REQUIRED

Choir SATB (with occasional divisions in the Soprano and Bass parts)

Chamber Organ (or Organ)

N.B. The organ part is intended for a Box Organ or Chamber Organ of the moveable 'continuo' type with three stops (8' 4' 2'). It may be played on a larger instrument, but always keeping the intimate quality of the Chamber Organ in mind.

PERFORMANCE MATERIALS

Score

SCORE SAMPLE

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

RECORDING

The Hatfield Service Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis are recorded by Ex Cathedra, directed by Jeffrey Skidmore, with Tim Harper (organ), on the CD "[A Time to Dance](#)", on the Hyperion label (CDA68144) (Follow the link to sample the recording)

PUBLICATION

Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis (Hatfield Service) is published by Edition Peters, Leipzig, London, New York
Edition Peters No. 72823