

Alec Roth – SHARED GROUND – words by Vikram Seth

six pieces for double choir

commissioned jointly by the Salisbury, Chelsea and Lichfield Festivals

first performed by Ex Cathedra, directed by Jeffrey Skidmore, Wilton Church, 6 June; Holy Trinity Church, Chelsea, 19 June; and Lichfield Cathedral, 6 July 2006

1. Lost
2. Oak
3. And
4. Host
5. Flash
6. This

The Old Rectory, Bemerton, was George Herbert's home from 1630 to his death in 1633, and where he wrote much of his poetry. In 2003 it was bought by the Indian writer Vikram Seth, and the six poems of *Shared Ground* were written in response to his first three years of living there. Each of the six takes a George Herbert poem as its structural model, but the subject matter is quite different, contrasting the joys and sorrows of human life with nature's ever-present wonders.

SHARED GROUND / PONTICELLI

Shared Ground may be performed in conjunction with *Ponticelli* ("little bridges"), a partita for solo violin in five movements. The two works are designed so that they can be performed separately or combined in a dovetailed fashion. In the combined form, the six pieces of *Shared Ground* are linked by the five bridges of *Ponticelli*.

DURATION

ca. 24 minutes (42 minutes if performed with *Ponticelli*)

FORCES REQUIRED

double choir SSATBB - SSATBB (minimum 12 voices)

PERFORMANCE MATERIALS

Full Score

SCORE SAMPLE

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

RECORDING

Shared Ground is recorded by Ex Cathedra, directed by Jeffrey Skidmore on the Signum label ([SIGCD270](#))

Individual tracks may be sampled and downloaded at [iTunes](#)

REVIEWS

"... a piece that's as poetically rich as it is chorally thrilling." (The Times)

Click here to read a selection of [reviews](#) of *Shared Ground*

THE RIVERED EARTH

Shared Ground and *Ponticelli* form Part 2 of the tetralogy [The Rivered Earth](#)