

# Alec Roth – **SNOWFLAKES** – words by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

for choir SSATBB and *either* Organ or Two Flutes and Bass Drum (and/or Double Bass)

this version first performed by Ex Cathedra, conducted by Jeffrey Skidmore, St John's Smith Square, London, 13 December 2012

The original version of *Snowflakes* formed part of the 'Winter Night' section of the cantata *A Time to Dance*, commissioned by the Summer Music Society of Dorset in celebration of its 50th anniversary, and first performed by Ex Cathedra, conducted by Jeffrey Skidmore at Sherborne Abbey, 9 June 2012.

This stand-alone version was first performed by Ex Cathedra with Andrew Fletcher (organ), conducted by Jeffrey Skidmore at St John's Smith Square, London, 13 December 2012.

## **DURATION**

ca. 2½ minutes

## **FORCES REQUIRED**

Choir SSATBB, with *either* Organ or Two Flutes and Bass Drum (and/or Double Bass)

## **PERFORMANCE MATERIALS**

Score

## **SCORE SAMPLE**

Click here for sample pages of the Score

[Snowflakes score sample pages.pdf](#)

## **TEXT**

Out of the bosom of the Air,  
    Out of the cloud-folds of her garments shaken,  
Over the woodlands brown and bare,  
    Over the harvest-fields forsaken,  
        Silent, and soft, and slow  
        Descends the snow.

Even as our cloudy fancies take  
    Suddenly shape in some divine expression,  
Even as the troubled heart doth make  
    In the white countenance confession,  
        The troubled sky reveals  
        The grief it feels.

This is the poem of the air,  
    Slowly in silent syllables recorded;  
This is the secret of despair,  
    Long in its cloudy bosom hoarded,  
        Now whispered and revealed  
        To wood and field.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-82)