

# Alec Roth – SOL JUSTITIAE – words by James Barmby

anthem for unaccompanied choir

first performed by the Hatfield College Chapel Choir directed by Alexander Crawford at the Eve of Hatfield Day Service, Durham Cathedral, 15 June 2009.

James Barmby (1823-1897) was the Principal of Hatfield Hall (now Hatfield College), University of Durham, from 1859 to 1876. The text of the Latin hymn which he wrote for use in the College chapel was rediscovered in 2009. It was set to music at the request of Professor Tim Burt, the Master of Hatfield, by Alec Roth during his stay as Composer in Residence at the College, Easter Term 2009.

## DURATION

ca. 5½ minutes (shortened version, omitting verses 2 and 3: ca. 4 minutes)

## FORCES REQUIRED

Unaccompanied choir SATB

## PERFORMANCE MATERIALS

Score

## RECORDING

*Sol Justitiae* is recorded by Ex Cathedra, directed by Jeffrey Skidmore, on the CD "[Shared Ground](#)"

The individual track may be sampled and downloaded at [iTunes](#)

## TEXT

The theme of Barmby's hymn is the journey from darkness to light; the text is in Latin. For a shorter version, verses 2 and 3 may be omitted. The following is a rough line-by-line translation:

1. Jam noctis adsunt tenebrae;  
Te autem expectantibus,  
In cujus pennis sanitas,  
Orire Sol justitiae

*1. As the darkness of night arrives  
you, for whom we wait,  
in whose wings is healing,  
arise, sun of righteousness.*

2. Orando super montibus  
Tu pernoctare solite,  
Orantibus psallentibus  
Infunde lucem coelitus.

*2. To pray on the mountain-tops  
all night through, you are accustomed;  
on those who pray and sing psalms,  
pour down the light of heaven.*

3. Si devii sub jubare  
Diurno declinavimus,  
Tu, qui columna ignea  
Noctu praeibas Israel,

*3. If we have strayed in the light  
of day, and turned from the way,  
you, who with a pillar of fire  
at night went before Israel,*

4. Tu, vera lux in tenebris  
Lassatis et errantibus,  
Jam Te desiderantibus  
Affulge per caliginem.

*4. You, true light in darkness,  
upon the weary and the wandering,  
now, upon those who long for you,  
beam out through the gloom.*

5. Sic, in eremo sospites,  
Tuo muniti numine,  
Te noctis in silentio,  
Te consequemur in dies.

*5. So, in the desert, safe and sound,  
protected by your power,  
you, in the night and in silence,  
you we will follow into the day.*

6. Nox tandem cedat lumini  
Illustraturo condita,  
Et lotis Agni sanguine,  
Luceat lux perpetua.

*6. Night at last will give way to the light  
which will illumine that which is hidden,  
and those washed in the Lamb's blood,  
shine upon them light everlasting.*

7. Deo Patri sit gloria,  
Ejusque soli Filio,  
Cum Spiritu Paraclito,  
Et nunc et in perpetuum. Amen.

*7. To God the Father be glory  
and to his only Son  
with the Holy Ghost  
both now and for ever. Amen.*