

Alec Roth – UNBORN (“Child of Son”) – words By Vikram Seth

a processional introit for tenor, choir and organ (or other instruments)

first performed by Ex Cathedra, conducted by Jeffrey Skidmore, St John’s Smith Square, London, 17 December 2008

Unborn, is adapted from Part I (Unborn) of the oratorio [The Traveller](#).

In the opening section, for unaccompanied tenor, the text, an English translation from the Pali of the *Dhammapada*, issues a summons, ending: “. . . Enclosed in darkness, do you not seek a lamp?”

From a distance, the choir then enter in procession, to the (optional) accompaniment of a processional drum, singing “Child of son, of daughter, tombed and wombed in water . . .”

There follows an extended solo for the tenor with organ (or other instrumental) accompaniment, employing another text translated from the *Dhammapada*: “Better than a thousand meaningless words is a single word that brings peace . . .”

Finally, the choir (by this time “on-stage”), sing “Child of son” once more, this time accompanied by the organ (or other instruments).

The score also contains details of how “Child of son” may be used as a recessional followed by a short unaccompanied solo for the tenor (taken from the Epilogue of *The Traveller*): “The meeting has dispersed”, a translation from the Urdu of words by Munshi Amir Ahmad Minai.

DURATION

ca. 5 minutes

FORCES REQUIRED

Solo Tenor, Choir SATB, Processional Drum (optional) and Organ (or other instruments, ad lib.)

PERFORMANCE MATERIALS

Score

SCORE SAMPLE

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

RECORDING

Unborn is recorded by Ex Cathedra, with Samuel Boden (tenor) and Andrew Fletcher (organ), conducted by Jeffrey Skidmore, on the CD “Joy in the Morning”, [Orchid Classics](#) (ORC100008).

To sample/download at iTunes, click [here](#).