

The Valleys Shall Sing

For SATB Choir and seven instruments: 2 bassoons, 2 trumpets, 3 trombones

The Valleys Shall Sing was commissioned by the Norfolk and Norwich Triennial Festival. It was first performed in October 1973, by the choir of Norwich Cathedral, directed by Michael Nicholas, with members of the RPO. It is dedicated to my sister Anna.

To create the text of this short cantata, I drew on words from a number of the Psalms, notably Psalm 65:

'thou blessest the earth
thou crownest the year
the valleys shall stand so thick with corn
that they shall laugh and sing'.

A reading from the psalms precedes the music, and occurs again at the centre; the reader may be drawn from the choir or, in a liturgical context, from one of the clergy.

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