

## **Fantasy for four harps**

*Fantasy* was commissioned by 'Four Girls Four Harps' as part of a project inspired by famous women from the past. The short pieces were also required to acknowledge Henriette Renié's *Legende*.

I composed *Fantasy* in honour of Millicent Fawcett, tireless campaigner for women's suffrage. It lasts five minutes and has a simple shape, gradually descending from high register to low, before stabilising for its conclusion.

Millicent Fawcett's name runs through my piece in pitch ('Mi' =Eb) and rhythm, and her struggles, achievements and final DBE did indeed inspire my piece.

Millicent Fawcett, (1847 – 1929, neé Garrett) was a person of great energy and initiative, who carried multiple roles: as leader of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, as a writer, as a dedicated campaigner for legal protection for women in Britain and overseas. She believed passionately in education for women, and was co-founder of Newnham College, Cambridge. She was married to Henry Fawcett, running households in London and Cambridge, and mother to the brilliant mathematician Philippa Fawcett.

For her life long dedication to the cause of women's rights, she was created Dame in 1928.

NL 2014