Martin Ellerby

THREE CHORAL ELEGIES

for

A Cappella SATB CHOIR (with divisions)

1. Crossing the Bar

2. **Sad Cypress**

Total duration: circa 11 minutes

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THREE CHORAL ELEGIES

Composer's Programme Notes

Three Choral Elegies comprises a trio of works related through their individual dedications that could be performed in order as a set, or as independent pieces. The chosen texts are by three different poets: Tennyson, Shakespeare and Dowland and all are concerned with death in the form of the passing of souls. The association between the dedicatees is that all of them were, at various times, students of mine at the London College of Music and all are no longer with us through three different sets of circumstances: misfortune, accident and the passing of the years. They were also of different age groups encompassing, in educational terms, undergraduate, postgraduate in extra-mural students. The loss of one of these caused the writing of these Choral Elegies possibly as a personal cathartic exercise but also because they were and are in their own ways equally unforgettable. They also left behind them families and friends who undoubtedly miss than more than me but I felt an inner urge to create these tributes and thus this trinity of elegies has reached fruition.

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1: Crossing the Bar

Tom Moss (1961-2020) was a postgraduate student on the film and television composers course who came to me for his composition classes after his official tutor was briefly taken ill. He passed the course and made a mark for himself in the world of library music composing several themed albums for the famous De Wolfe Music company. Liverpool born and bred he was a natural ambassador for his community residing there after his studies and finding lecture work at the City's various educational establishments including LIPA and finally Liverpool University. He had a unique melodic gift in the best singing style and was continually working to improve his technique which embraced a wide variety of ensembles all of which took to his music and personality with alacrity. Once met, Tom was not someone to forget – he loved life and was a devoted family man. He passed away very suddenly after a short illness and not without fighting to the end. When think of him there is a smile on my face and some open laughter, all cushioned by a fierce fea

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of fare tell,
When I embark;
or tho' from out our boarse of Time and trace we flood may bear me far,
ope to see my Pilotiace to former of the tell have crost the

Alfred, Lord Tennyson (809-1892), freely adapted.

2: Sad Cypress

Charlotte 'Charlie' Halliburton (1979-2000) was not an official student of mine but she was oft found around my department being friends of many of my composition students. She was affectionately known to them as 'Charlie' and I remember her penetrating eyes and cheeky yet charming nature. She was only 21 when she crossed a road in Fleet Street and was seriously hit leading to a six-day fight for life in the Royal London Hospital, a battle she lost despite all that could be done to save her. Such a character is easy to remember, harder to forget and though I only knew her from a distance the mark she made on those around her was most notable. Her passing was a genuine tragedy and there are many who will miss her and her appealing charisma.

Jower, not a flower sweet,
On my black coffin let there be strown.
Not a friend, not a friend greet
My poor corpse, where my bones shall belt with.
A thousand thousand sighs to save,
Lay me, O, where
Sad true lover never find my grave.
To weep there.

Charlie'/Amen

The liam Shakespeare 1564-1610...
m Twelfth Night, freely and

3: Weep You no More, Sad Fountains

Ken Hall (1925-2016) came to me as a mature student studying in the extra-mural department. His ambition was to take the theory diplomas of the college in succession and he cared not how long it took him. Hence he was with me for several years and beyond. He started with me and passed a retired, amposition. I are, his honesty a serious control of the to another tutor when I left the LCM for a position in the music publishing industry. However we kept in touch to the end – I even visited him at his home in Southwell, where he had retired, and took great delight in seeing for myself his pride and joy, his FLCM diploma in composition. Ken passed away peacefully and I shall remember him for his gentle enquiring nature, his honesty and integrity.

Weep you no more, sad fountains; What need you flow so fast? Look how the snowy mountains Heaven's sun doth gently waste. But my sun's heavenly eyes View not your weeping, That now lie sleeping Softly, now softly lies Sleeping.

Sleep is a reconciling, A rest that peace begets. Doth not the sun rise smiling When fair at even she sets? Rest you then, rest, sad eyes, Melt not in weeping While he lies sleeping Softly, now softly lies Sleeping.

John Dowland (1563

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Martin Ellerby - Biography

Martin Ellerby was born in England in 1957. He studied composition with Joseph Horovitz, W. S. Lloyd Webber and Wilfred Josephs. An early Requiem and Missa Brevis led to further choral works such as the Mass of St Thomas Aquinas and A Little Symphony of English Carols. Vocal elements have found their way into much other music including The Cries of London, Royal Windsor Portraits, Elizabethan Masquerade and Tributes plus further carol and song settings.

His music has contributed to many other forms including orchestral, concert & brass bands, along with instrumental and chamber, complimented by contributions to educational and examination music material. This has been performed and broadcast at venues worldwide. A seven year post as civilian composer-in-residence to the Regimental Band of Her Majesty's Coldsta Guards resulted in much music for specific State events, Royal occasions and oversea to Other residencies have been fulfilled in Europe, North & South America and

He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree and an Honorary Doc five Fellowships. Amongst his various awards are the Westmins Britain Dio Fund Award, the Freedom of the City of Long John Jol of redal mith Fund, the 2008 Class of the Royal Military School of Brass Award, and the 2017 John Henry Iles Medal

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First published 2020 Impression: 1

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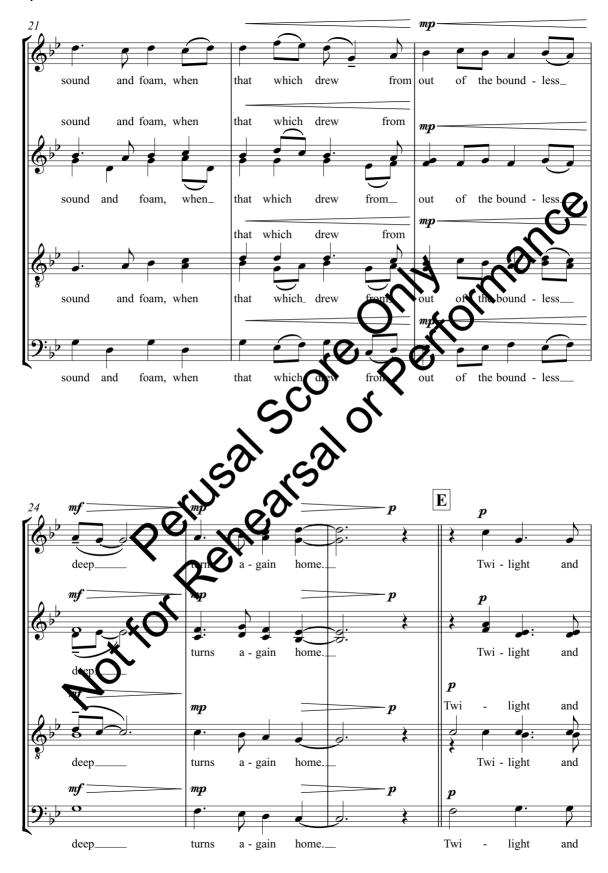
CROSSING THE BAR

for SATB CHOIR

















Text: William Shakespeare (from 'Twelfth Night')

SAD CYPRESS

for SATB CHOIR

(with divisions)

MUSIC: MARTIN ELLERBY















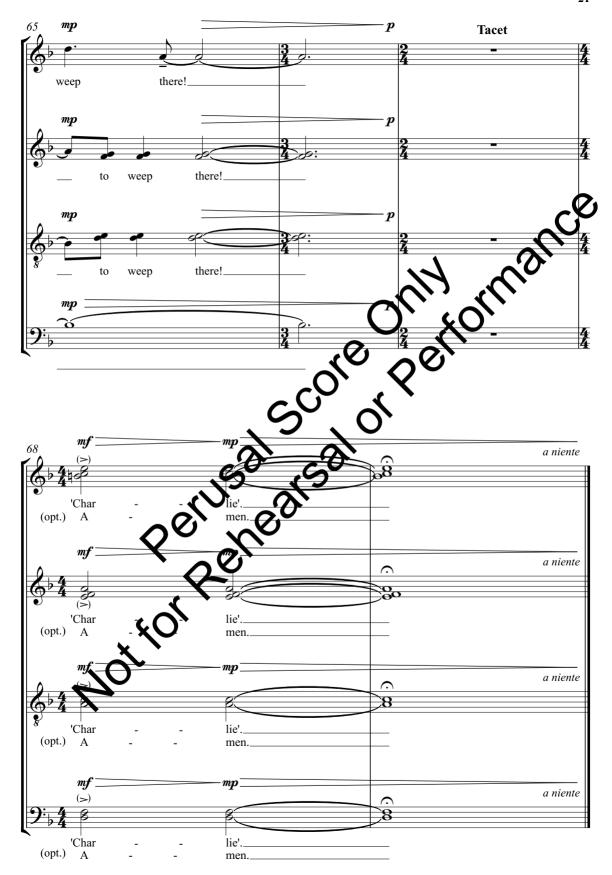












WEEP YOU NO MORE, SAD FOUNTAINS





Weep you not,













