

IAN MORGAN-WILLIAMS

THE WOOD OF THE CROSS

a setting of the poem by

PETER ASHTON

for Upper Voices (S.A.) & Piano

2025

The Wood of the Cross

A walk through the wood, let nature unfold
And find in the trees a story untold,
To touch the rough bark, look up at the leaves,
A cross in the roots and the trunk of the trees,
A cross to be hewn from the heart of the wood.
As men came to destroy it and for all that it stood,
The screaming of saws, flat bracken around,
The crying of birds as they rise at the sound
Of the noise of the crash as the tree hits the ground
And the groaning of wood as it's twisted and turned.

If we walk through the trees and see it again
We can touch the old wood and feel the old pain.
The pain of the cross — it's rough and it's dark
Branches hang helpless with nails in the bark.
In the stump of the trunk and the bracken now curled
Lies the cost of the cross for the love of the world.

Let's go to the woods and see the young trees,
The life that now springs from the heart of the wood
And dances and sings and sways in the breeze
With life in its green and love understood,
As the figure who hangs on the cross of the wood
Lifts his hands to the air and his feet on the bark,
His body uplifted, held tight to the wood,
His eyes on his father, his feet on the ground,
To carry the pain of his friends all around.

The cross of the wood, its purpose begun —
To glorify God, Father, Spirit and Son —
Still grows in the woods in the pain and the bark,
Its feet in the soil and today in its heart.
Above us the braches, the leaves on the tree,
For healing and growing, new life we can see,
For heaven and earth united in praise,
The pain of the bark and the joy of the leaves.

Peter Ashton
14 November 2024

for Peter, with respect and admiration
THE WOOD OF THE CROSS

PETER ASHTON

IAN MORGAN-WILLIAMS

Flowing, expressively, ♩ = ca. 69

Soprano

Alto

Piano

p

p

p

Ped.

7

wood, let na-ture un - fold And find in the trees a sto - ry un - told, To

wood, let na-ture un - fold And find in the trees a sto - ry un - told, To

Ped.

14

touch the rough bark, look up at the leaves, A cross in the roots and the

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The musical score is written for Soprano, Alto, and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo/mood is 'Flowing, expressively' with a tempo marking of ♩ = ca. 69. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-6) features the Soprano and Alto voices with lyrics 'A walk through the' and the Piano accompaniment with a 'p' dynamic and a 'Ped.' marking. The second system (measures 7-13) continues the vocal lines with lyrics 'wood, let na-ture un - fold And find in the trees a sto - ry un - told, To' and the Piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 14-20) continues the vocal lines with lyrics 'touch the rough bark, look up at the leaves, A cross in the roots and the' and the Piano accompaniment. The score includes various musical notations such as rests, notes, slurs, and dynamic markings.

20

pp

trunk of the trees, A cross to be hewn from the heart of the wood.

pp

trunk of the trees, A cross to be_ hewn from the heart of the wood.

pp

Red.

27

mf

As men came to des-roy it and for all that it stood, The

mf

As men came to des-roy it and for all that it stood, The

f

f

mf

33

scream - ing of saws, flat brack-en_ a - round, The cry - ing_ of

scream - ing of saws, flat brack-en_ a - round, The cry - ing_ of

f

f

38

birds as they rise at the sound Of the noise and the crash as the

birds as they rise at the sound Of the noise and the crash as the

ff

ff

ff

3

8va

Musical score for "The Wind" by Gustav Mahler, measures 43-46. The score features three staves: two vocal staves (Soprano and Alto) and one piano accompaniment staff.

- Vocal Staves:** Both staves have identical lyrics: "tree hits the ground And the groan - ing of wood as it's twist-ed and_".
- Piano Accompaniment:** The left hand plays chords and single notes, while the right hand has more complex chordal textures. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano).
- Measure Numbers:** The system starts at measure 43 and ends at measure 46.
- Key Signature:** Two sharps (F# and C#), indicating D major or B minor.
- Time Signature:** Not explicitly shown, but inferred from the notation to be 4/4.

48

turned. If we walk through the trees___ and

turned. If we walk through the trees___ and

p

p