

The Magi

*For SATB choir and semi-chorus (or soloists)
with four solo violins (optional) or piano/organ*

Music by Liz Lane

Words by Jennifer Henderson

The Magi

Who are these travellers come from afar,
riding beneath unfamiliar skies,
weary from journeying after a star,
dust of the desert storms blinding their eyes?

What is the burden their caravan brings
over the mountains and crossing the sand?
Riches of Orient worthy of kings,
spices and gold from a far distant land.

What can these mean to the child in a manger,
one who has chosen the poor for his part,
one who embraces the hungry and stranger,
taking the sick and despised to his heart?

What did they give with their gold and their incense,
coming as we do with joy to this place?
Did they receive, as they knelt in his presence,
the promise of blessing, the gift of his grace?

Jennifer Henderson [1929 -]

Duration: 4 minutes

Performance Note:

The semi-chorus could consist of several voices or solo voices taken from the main choir, or additional soloists if available.

The four solo violins, if used, should be situated spatially around the choir(s) but with a good view of the conductor:

VIOLIN 2

VIOLIN 4

CHOIR

VIOLIN 1

VIOLIN 3

CONDUCTOR

Piano or organ should substitute the violins if players are not available.

Liz Lane, October 2009

www.lizlane.co.uk

The Magi was commissioned for the University of the West of England Carols for Christmas Service 2009 and first performed by the UWE Chamber Choir and Singers on 17th December 2009, Bristol Cathedral.