The Story of St Alban

1. Roman Britain

Flute/Piccolo

Oboe/Cor Anglais

Clarinet in Bb/Bass Clarinet

Horn in F

Percussion

Harp

Narrator

Children's Choir

Baritone

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Violoncello

Double Bass
Narrator

Britannia: the Final Frontier.

When Roman troops occupied this island in the year 43, the natives could either fight and die or live in peace with the occupying forces.

One who died, fighting for her people’s freedom, was Boudicca who burnt to the ground the Roman capital of Camulodunum, the trading port, Londinium and a prosperous market town, called Verulamium.

Verulamium was rebuilt and became the third wealthiest city in Britannia.

After two hundred years the local Celts and occupying forces had learned to work together: they inter-married, prospered and worshipped Roman gods.

And so in the furthest flung part of the greatest empire Europe had ever known, many of its native people became Roman citizens.
pol - lo drives the sun to light our way. Great love, you spare us from the fields of Mars.

Fl

Ob

Cl

Hn

Pens

S

A

T

B

pol - lo drives the sun to light our way. Great love, you spare us from the fields of Mars.

E

Fl

Ob

Cl

Hn

Pens

Hf

Bass

S

A

T

B

is to you we sa - cri - fie and pray.
Narrator

Life was easy for the newly sophisticated citizens of Rome. And the Governor knew how to keep them happy; how to keep the artisans happy; even to keep the slaves as happy as they could be. With bread and circuses.
A bleating goat, a flock of sheep, a bear
What fun it is to see the blood flow
[Suspended Cymbal, Snare Drum and Tom-toms]

based on Plainsong from Dunstaple’s \textit{Albanus Rosio Rutilat}, an antiphon on St Alban beginning \textit{Alloquio dulcis vultu}.
Narrator

Then a strange sect made its appearance on the streets. Followers of a long-dead Jew called Jesus Christ whom they believed to be the son of the One True God. As the sect gained support, the Emperor Severus, feeling his own divinity to be threatened, licensed their persecution.
Narrator

But the Christians would not willingly participate in the entertainment game.
These Christians do not run, they will not
Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Hp.

S.

A.

T.

B.

Vc.

Db.

Tubular Bell

\[ \sum \]

\[ \sum \]

\[ \sum \]

\[ \sum \]

\[ \sum \]

\[ \sum \]

fight,

But pray and sing until they're out of breath.

They

fight,

But pray and sing until they're out of breath.

They

fight,

But pray and sing until they're out of breath.

They

fight,

But pray and sing until they're out of breath.

They

fight,

But pray and sing until they're out of breath.

They

fight,

But pray and sing until they're out of breath.

They

fight,

But pray and sing until they're out of breath.

They
To die so they could live on after death.
Narrator

In Verulamium, some became intrigued: among them a respected local Roman Citizen called Alban.

These Christian folk. What do they want? There is nothing for them in our Roman world. They act as though they understand. An answer to a question no one knows.
Narrator

But Britannia is an island once covered in broadleaf forests. And human beings with all their conflicts are but recent visitors. The original inhabitants of this island are seldom seen but, believe me they are still here.
Nuns, dryads, go-blins, gnomes
Call us whatever you like—cos we don't care
Long legged beasties
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Hn.
Hp.
Cdrn's C.
Vc.

ghou-lies, ghosts, can't see us, but we're always there.
Bo-gies, pi-xies, brownies, imps

Ripe for mischief, up for fun
Make you burp or even worse, tickle your nose and
Suspended Cymbal, Hi-hat, Snare Drum and Tom-toms
snare drum sticks or rods

Like a rap - mainly spoken, not necessarily at pitch

We can

[Like a rap - mainly spoken, not necessarily at pitch]

mark it run.

Suspended Cymbal, Hi-hat, Snare Drum and Tom-toms

[Like a rap - mainly spoken, not necessarily at pitch]
We rustle in the leaves then swing on a bough, make the cry of a fox or the scratch of an owl.
If an a-corn falls on your hat-less head, You think it was a squir-rel but it's us in stead.
We can make you jump, in the darkest dark. With a
Suspended Cymbal, Hi-hat, Snare Drum and Tom-toms

Vc

DB

Suspended Cymbal, Hi-hat, Snare Drum and Tom-toms

Vc

DB

Suspended Cymbal, Hi-hat, Snare Drum and Tom-toms

Vc

DB
When the sun goes down it's our delight
Trip you pinch you, give a little

[And the band plays on]
fright, So you run back home as fast you might.

When you're in bed and tucked up tight,

Make room for us, the bugs that bite

Make those things go bump in the night.
[Suspended Cymbal, Hi-hat, Snare Drum and Tom-toms]
Narrator

These are the creatures of the night who keep nature in harmony with itself and bear witness to our troubles with wry amusement.
2. Amphibalus

**Narrator**

Throughout the Roman Empire brutal persecution of 'Christians' became ever more vicious. But the good hearted Alban was not in harmony with his time.
Catch him, beat him, knock him on the head, Feed him to the dogs when he's not quite scen-blood. His breath was scant He did his best But
dead.
Catch him, beat him, knock him on the head, Feed him to the dogs when he's not quite dead.

There was no hope. I did not think.

But

Some voices only - (perhaps change group for each phrase to create effect of different parts of the crowd)
A little more relaxed  poco rit.

[Slower \( \approx 72 \)]

Fl  

Ob  

Cl  

Hn  

Perc.  

Cdrn's C.  

Perc.  

H  

hp.  

Vc  

Db  

S  

A  

Catch him, beat him, knock him on the head. Feed him to the dogs when he's not quite dead.

He could leave. And when he spoke he talked of faith And love and of forgive-ness. He'd

Vocal Parts:

C  

flutes  

oboe  

clarinet  

horns  

percussion  

handclaps  

violins  

cellos  

set a course Through troubl-ed seas No moon that night Nor stars to guide, But all by chance He

"[Tubular Bell]  \( \approx \) rit.  

Perc.  

H  

hp.  

bass  

stum-bled on A har-bour safe to shel-ter in.
The old man was a Christian priest, Amphibalus. Alban took his cloak and settled him comfortably by the fire. The priest spoke of his beliefs and Alban became intrigued.
Six days and nights, he shared the tales
His savior told when here on earth,
Of how he cured the sick and lame.

A simple message clear and strong
This faith was pure and so unlikely
The priestly cult we took from
No lust for power, money, social worth
I recognised my spiritual home.
If they should come To capture him I swear to God He shall escape. He must be free To tell his tale Spread the word

Of sweet redemption

(normal)

sul tasto poco rit.
3. The Arrest

A tempo, a little quicker, \( \approx 90 \)

God of the Christians, I have no right to ask any thing of you.

But grant a way to save your Faithful priest, Amphiabulus.

They're
get ting close, no time to waste, Get out, you foo lish man! They

are too strong, you have no chance Go now as fast you can. The
clam- pe- ty clamp,
of Ro- man boots. Will crush you like a fly
Narrator

Alban did not answer until he had bought enough time for Amphibalus to disappear into the night.
We know you shelter so called Christian.
As a Roman citizen it

We will search your house and

is your imperial duty to give him up.

Narrator

Alban was taken to the basilica. The judge was sacrificing a goat to his gods: priests looked into its entrails for judicial advice.

Narrator (continues)

.....
Narrator (continues)

Is this the man we sent you to ar-

And (some - or all - falsetto if preferred)

rest?

rest?
Your name is Al-bun is it not? Where is the Christian that you shall terrify?

Your name is Al-bun is it not? Where is the Christian that you shall terrify?

mutinous but musical mutterings - 'it's not our fault'; 'don't blame us'; 'we did what he said' - these can be ad hoc and out of time

of

it's not our fault
don't blame us

we did what he said
You understand the punishment for protecting such as him? Are you or have you ever been a follower?

Where is this so called priest Amphi-bus-ter?
Your views on certain matters are unsound. You're not what you seem.

Your views on certain matters are unsound. You're not what you seem.

I am a citizen of Rome.

Approach the altar and give
The court deliberated: the court decided: the court passed sentence.
It is the decision of this court that Alban shall be punished as the Christian he sheltered will be punished in good time.

He shall be taken from this court to a place of

te

He shall be taken from this court to a place of

He shall be taken from this court to a place of

He shall be taken from this court to a place of

He shall be taken from this court to a place of
lie-very in the one true God Whose son gave up his life, Was cru-xified That we may
(stagger breathing)

have e-ter-nal life

Whose life,

true God Whose son gave up his life, Was cru-xified That we may
(stagger breathing)

have e-ter-nal life

Whose life,
Alban was taken under guard from the city to the execution site. Crowds blocked the bridge across the river.

Play if needed

They pok'd and pushed him down to the river side
Drove him on, he might have drowned.

Our water sprites had a word with the river god Who...
stopped its flow so he could cross.

Then up the hill they shoved him fast.

Puf-fing, panting, weak at the knees.

Puf-fing, panting, weak at the knees.

His mouth was dry and oh so thirsty.

We drew a spring out of the ground.
And then we paused they weren’t just playing. This wasn’t senza sordino.

But it was all for real. We turned our backs so we couldn’t see.

Just what feels these muscles be.
B. Cl.  

Perc.  

C.A.  

Db.  

Hp.  

Hn.  

Vc.  

A.  

T.  

Vo.  

Db.  

Do you have final words to speak? You  

Do you have final words to speak? You  

(PIZZ)
must pray to your God. But you may speak to

(like a heartbeat)
new day dawns, where all is pure and good
I have a journey, short-ly needs

very expressive, plaintive
must go, My saviour calls me, I must not say no.
Narrator

Alban was executed for his beliefs and so became the first Christian martyr from the Roman colony of Britannia.

‘Among the roses of the martyrs brightly shines Saint Alban.’
Following his example in the fellowship of the saints, may we

and be faithful witnesses to

worship and adore the true and living God, and be faithful witnesses to
Christ, who is alive and reigns, now and forever.

Pray for us Alban,
Pray for us all Saints of God, that we may be made worthy.

Pray for us all Saints of God, that we may be made worthy.

Pray for us all Saints of God, that we may be made worthy.

Pray for us all Saints of God, that we may be made worthy.
of the promises of Christ. A

men

A

of the promises of Christ.

A

of the promises of Christ.

of the promises of Christ.

A little slower

A little slower