

2021

A BALLAD OF EASTER

Music by
**BEVERLY
LEWIS**

EAST CHAMBER
MUSIC



**EAST CHAMBER
MUSIC**

Poetry: Theodosia Pickering Garrison

I heard two soldiers talking
As they came down the hill —
The sombre hill of Calvary,
Bleak and black and still.
And one said, " The night is late;
These thieves take long to die. "
And one said, " I am sore afraid,
And yet I know not why. "

I heard two women weeping
As down the hill they came.
And one was like a broken rose,
One was like a flame.
And one said, " Now men shall rue
This deed their hands have done. "
And one said only through her tears,
" My Son! My Son! My Son! "

I heard two angels singing
Ere yet the dawn was bright,
And they were clad in shining robes,
Robes and crowns of light.
And one sang, " Death is vanquished, "
And one in golden voice
Sang, " Love hath conquered, conquered all;
O Heaven and Earth, rejoice! "

Duration: 2 minutes

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**EAST CHAMBER
MUSIC**

A Ballad of Easter

for SSAA a cappella choir

Poetry: Theodosia Pickering Garrison
(1874-1944)

Music: Beverly Lewis

$\text{♩} = 60$

Soprano 1 *mf* I heard two sol - diers

Soprano 2 *p* Lie la lie, Lie la lie, Lie la lie la lie. Lie la lie la

Alto 1 *p* Lie la lie, Lie la lie, Lie la lie la lie. Lie la lie la

Alto 2 *p* Lie la lie, Lie la lie, Lie la lie la lie. Lie la lie la

S1 talk - ing as they came down the hill - The som - bre hill of Cal - va - ry,

S2 lie. Lie la lie la lie la lie. Lie la lie la lie.

A1 lie. Lie la lie la lie la lie. Lie la lie la lie.

A2 lie. Lie la lie la lie la lie. Lie la lie la lie.

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A Ballad of Easter

11

S1

Bleak and black and still. And one said, "The night is late. These thieves take long to

S2

Lie la lie la lie la lie. Lie la lie la lie Lie la lie la

A1

Lie la lie la lie la lie. Lie la lie la lie Lie la lie la

A2

Lie la lie la lie la lie. Lie la lie la lie Lie la lie la

16

S1

die." *f* And one said, "I am sore a - fraid, and yet I know not why."

S2

lie. *mp* Lie² la lie² ls lie. Lie la lie la lie la lie.

A1

lie. *mp* Lie la lie la lie. Lie la lie la lie la lie.

A2

lie. *mp* Lie la lie la lie. Lie la lie la lie la lie.

A Ballad of Easter

21

S1

f Wee ² ping. ² Wee ²

21

S2

lie la lie. lie la lie. *f* Oh. I heard two wo - men weep - ing As down the hill they

21

A1

lie la lie. lie la lie. *mf* Oh. Ah.

21

A2

lie la lie. lie la lie. *mf* Oh. Ah.

27

S1

ping. Wee ping. Wee ping *mf* And one said, "Now

27

S2

came. And one was like a bro - ken rose. One was like a flame. *mf* And one said, "Now

27

A1

Ah. Ah.

27

A2

Ah. Ah.

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33

S1 men shall rue This deed their hands have done." And one said on - ly —

S2 men shall rue This deed their hands have done." And one said on - ly —

A1

A2

37 *rit.* *a tempo*

S1 through her tears, *f* My Son! My Son! *p* My Son!" —

S2 through her tears, *f* My Son! My Son! *p* My Son!" — *p* La la la, La la la, La la la la

A1 *f* My Son! My Son! *p* My Son!" — *p* La la la, La la la. La la la la

A2 *f* My Son! My Son! *p* My Son!" — *p* La la la, La la la, La la la la

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43

S1 *mf* I heard two an - gels sing - ing Ere yet the dawn was bright, And

43

S2 la. Ah Ah Ah Ah

43

A1 la Ah Ah Ah Ah

43

A2 la Ah Ah

48

S1 they were clad in shin - ing robes, *f* Robes and crowns of light. *mf* And one sang, "Death is

48

S2 Ah Ah Ah Ah Ah

48

A1 Ah Ah Ah Ah

48

A2 Ah Ah Ah

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53

S1 van - quished," And one in gol - den voice *f* Sang, "Love hath con - quered,

53

S2 Ah Ah Ah *mf* Ah

53

A1 Ah Ah Ah *mf* Ah

53

A2 Ah *mf* Ah

57

S1 con - quered all; Oh Heav'n and Earth, re - joice!" *rit.*

57

S2 *mf* Ah Ah Ah

57

A1 Ah Ah

57

A2 Ah

About the composer: Canadian composer, Beverly Lewis, studied music at Mount Allison University, majoring in piano. Bev currently teaches piano at the University Settlement Music & Arts School, directs music at Bathurst United Church and is a freelance accompanist and chamber musician. Bev's compositions have been performed in Austria, Canada, France, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States and her music has been broadcast on CBC Radio and on CFTA FM Radio. She has won several awards (Amadeus Choir Carol competition and Toronto Arts Council) and her pieces have been recorded by various musicians. Bev's compositions are currently being published by Cypress Choral Music, BC, Palliser Music, AB (educational), Renforth Music, NB (choral), and Forton Music, UK (woodwind). Recent performances of Bev's works include her setting of The Coventry Carol (for SSA choir and oboe) with the Canterbury Voices (Dr. Kerry Boyle, director) and Ian Crowther, oboist in Canterbury, UK, December 2022; Five Shakespeare Songs (for SSA a cappella choir by Cantata Choir (Nancy Singla, artistic director) at Roy Thomson Hall, May 2023, Toronto and also at Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall, NYC in April 2025. In 2024, as part of a community building project, Bev's piece, The Music of the Thames (for SATB choir, piano and flute) was performed by two different British community choirs that are located near the River Thames, namely, The Riverhouse Barn Choir (Jonathan Kilhams, music director) in Walton-on-Thames, UK and SingFourFour (Jen Bamford, music director) in Cricklade, UK. Most recently, in 2025, Cantata Choir released a recording entitled, Songbird, that included Bev's Five Shakespeare Songs. It is currently available on all music streaming platforms. Bev was the Examinations Supervisor for many years in the Faculty of Arts and Science, University of Toronto, until she retired in 2018. In her spare time, she enjoys doing fundraising projects for charity. From 2010 to 2018, she co-produced (with Donald Boere) an annual music and arts concert/event called Music and Arts for Haiti at the University of Toronto in aid of Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) for their medical relief work in Haiti. Over those nine years, thousands of dollars were raised for MSF through the generosity of volunteer singers, musicians, actors and dancers drawn from the community of students, staff and faculty members of the University of Toronto.