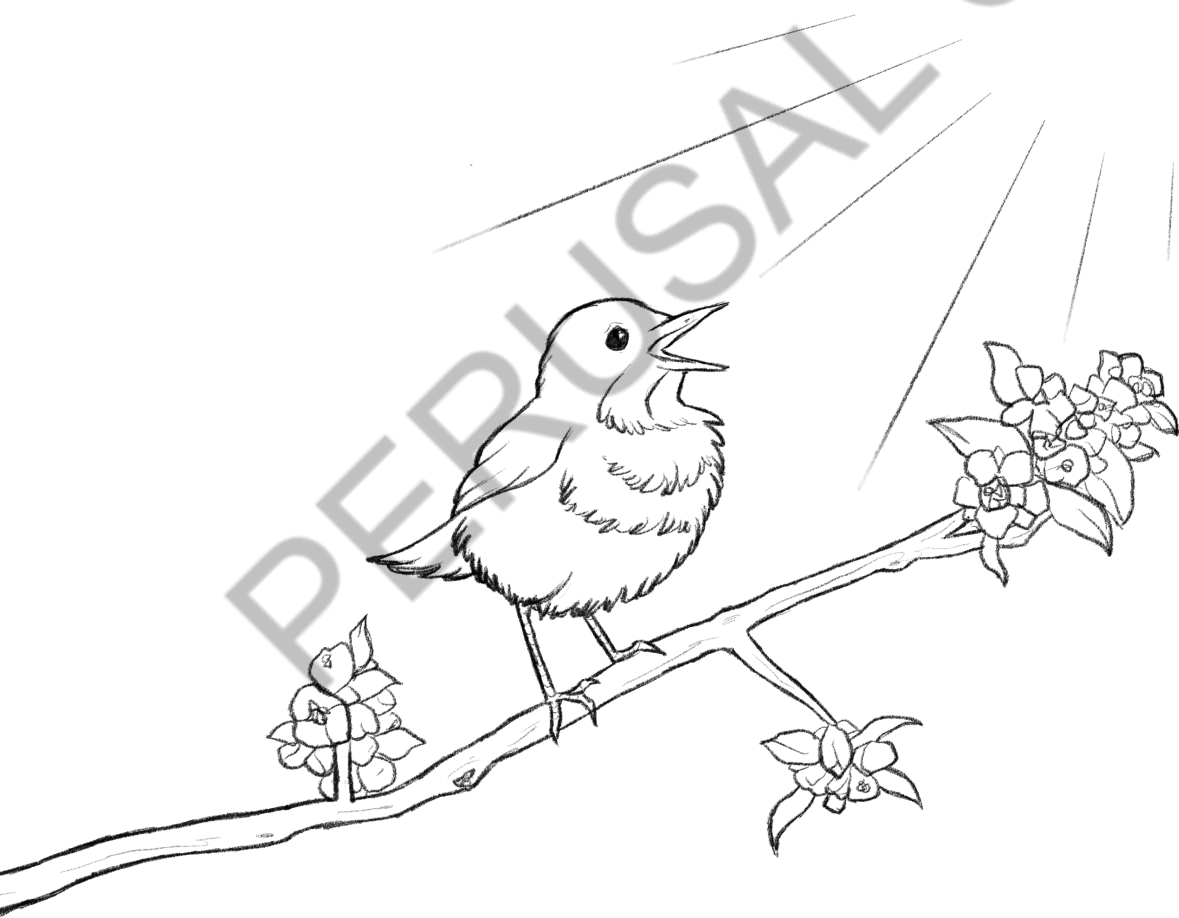


Liminal Dawn

for SATB choir and soprano soli

Áine Mallon

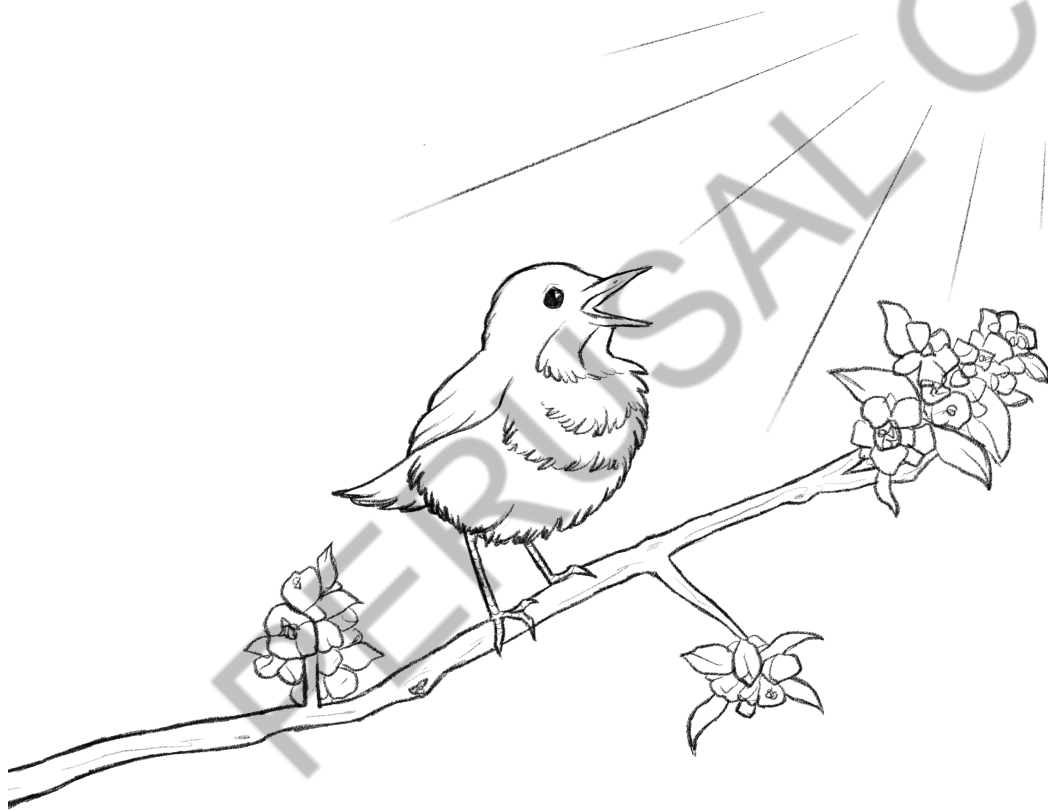


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Liminal Dawn

for SATB choir and soprano soli

Áine Mallon



Commissioned by Britten Pears Arts for the 73rd Aldeburgh Festival 2022
First performance given by the ORA Singers at Saturday 11 June 2022,
Bury St Edmunds Cathedral

Liminal Dawn

'Liminal Dawn' is a reflection on Gibbons' Long Live Fair Oriana. Oriana, a Latin word used as a nickname for Queen Elizabeth I, translates to Sunrise. In the Gibbons' piece the 'nymphs' joyfully herald the coming of 'Oriana', the sun, and welcome the new day.

My work exists in the liminal space before the sun rises, the dawn of the day where the sky glows faintly and the world slowly wakes up; where a dawn chorus of birds sing to one another in anticipation of the new day and the hope that it brings.

Whilst this piece contains hope for a new day, it also brings a sadness. Bird populations are in sharp decline with some species losing up to 95% since 1970. This piece pays homage to the songsters of the springtime and laments the loss of future song, and the potential of a silent Spring to come.

To find more information on this, and what we can do to help, please visit: <https://www.songbird-survival.org.uk/>

Ella Wheeler Wilcox, 'Dawn'

Day's sweetest moments are at dawn;
Refreshed by his long sleep, the Light
Kisses the languid lips of Night,
Ere she can rise and hasten on.

All glowing from his dreamless rest
He holds her closely to his breast,
Warm lip to lip and limb to limb,
Until she dies for love of him.

[Oriana]

For Donald Lavery,
a lover of song

Liminal Dawn

Áine Mallon

Sopranos individually join to sing birdsong freely; approximate rhythms;
Individually vary tempo from c.80bpm to 120bpm

c. 15 seconds

Soprano Solo 1

Soprano Solo 2

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

$\text{♩} = 60$
Gently

2

S. Solo 1

S. Solo 2

Sopranos individually drop out

S.

Sopranos individually drop out

S.

A.

Day's sweet - est_ mo-ments are at dawn;

6

S. Solo 1 *p* ah ah

S. Solo 2 *p* ah ah ah

S.

A. *mp* Re - freshed by his long

T. *p* O - ri - a - na, ah

10

S. Solo 1 ah

S. Solo 2

S. *p* O - ri - a - na mm *mp* the Light

A. *p* sleep *mf* the Light

T. *p* o - ri - a - na mm *mp* the Light the Light

B. *p* O - ri - a - na mm *mp* Light

with a little more movement

13 *rit.* *mf* ♩ = 72

S. Solo 1 ah ah ah

S. Solo 2 ah

S. *f* Kiss - es the lan-guid lips of Night, *p*

A. *f* Kiss lips of Night, *p*

T. *f* Kiss lips Night, *p* o-ri-a - na.

B. *f* Kiss lips of Night, *p*

18 *pp* *mf*

S. Solo 1 ah

S. Solo 2

S. *p* Ere she can rise, *mp* Ere, she can rise, rise, o-ri-a - na.

A. *p* ah Ere she can rise *mp* rise, o-ri-a - na

T.

B.

23

♩. = 60

S. Solo 1

S. Solo 2

S.

and hast - en on. o - ri -

A.

and hast - en on. o - ri -

T.

rise, o - ri - a - na and hast - en on. o - ri -

B.

rise, o - ri - a - na and hast - en on. o - ri -

27

S. Solo 1

ah ah

S. Solo 2

ah ah ah

S.

a - na, o - ri - a - na, o - ri - a - na

A.

a - na, o - ri - a - na, o - ri - a - na

T.

a - na, o - ri - a - na, o - ri - a - na

B.

a - na, o - ri - a - na, o - ri - a - na

30 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

S. Solo 1 *tr*

S. Solo 2

S.

31 *(tr)*

S. Solo 1

Sopranos individually sing birdsong freely; approximate rhythms
Individually vary tempo from c.80bpm to 120bpm

c. 15 seconds

p

S. ah ah ah

p

S. ah ah ah

$\text{♩} = 72$

32 *p* *pp* *mp*

Sopranos individually drop out Only one soprano 1 left

S. *p* *pp* He

Sopranos individually drop out Only one soprano 2 left

A. *mp* 3

All glow - ing from his dream-less rest

T. *mp*

glow - ing from his dream - less

B. *mp*

glow - ing from his dream - less, dream - less rest, He

37 *mp* *f*

S. holds her close-ly to his breast, Warm lip to lip and limb to

A. *p* *f*
He holds her close-ly to his breast, Warm lip to lip and limb to

T. *p* *f*
He holds her close-ly to his breast, Warm lip to lip and limb to

B. *mp* *f*
holds close-ly to his breast, Warm lip to lip and limb to

Freely *p* *mf* *p* **a tempo**

42

S. Solo 1 ah o-ri-a-na

S. Solo 2 ah ah

S. *sub. p* *p*
limb, Un - til she dies,

A. *sub. p* *p*
limb, Un - til she dies,

T. *sub. p* *p*
limb, Un - til she dies,

B. *sub. p*
limb, _____

S. Solo 1

S. Solo 2

S.

A.

T.

B.

mf *p* *p*

Un - til she dies for love of him. o - ri - a - na, o - ri -

Un - til she dies for love of him. o - ri - a - na, o - ri -

Un - til she dies for love of him. o - ri - a - na, o - ri -

Un - til she dies for love of him. o - ri - a - na, o - ri -

51

S. Solo 1

S.

A.

T.

B.

Rubato *mp* *f*

ah ah ah

a - na, o - ri - a - na o - ri - a - na

a - na, o - ri - a - na o - ri - a - na

a - na, o - ri - a - na o - ri - a - na

a - na, o - ri - a - na o - ri - a - na

S. Solo 1

55 *mf*

ah_ ah_ ah_ ah_ ah_

S. Solo 1

58 *mp*

ah ah

p

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