

# Simon Beattie

## *Advent Calendar*

Carol for unaccompanied mixed voices

### Advent Calendar

He will come like last leaf's fall.  
 One night when the November wind  
 has flayed the trees to the bone, and earth  
 wakes choking on the mould,  
 the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.  
 One morning when the shrinking earth  
 opens on mist, to find itself  
 arrested in the net  
 of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.  
 One evening when the bursting red  
 December sun draws up the sheet  
 and penny-masks its eye to yield  
 the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,  
 will come like crying in the night,  
 like blood, like breaking,  
 as the earth writhes to toss him free.  
 He will come like child.

*Rowan Williams*

Note about the music: This musical setting was composed in 2006. The composer's idea was that each voice that comes in represents another door being opened on the calendar. The work was broadcast on BBC Radio 3 by the Choir of St John's College, Cambridge, directed by Andrew Nethsingha, on Advent Sunday 2008. It has also been recorded by the Caritas Chamber Choir, conducted by Benedict Preece (Ulysses Arts, 2022).

Also available by Simon Beattie

The Angel and the Unicorn  
 anthem for SATB (with divisions),  
 words by Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926) from *The Annunciation*,  
 translated by Simon Beattie

Published by Encore Publications  
[www.encorepublications.com](http://www.encorepublications.com)

# Advent Calendar

Words: Rowan Williams (b. 1950)

Music: Simon Beattie (b. 1975)

## Adagio flessibile

*mp*

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

He will come like last leaf's fall. One night when the No -

## Adagio flessibile

*mp*for  
rehearsal  
only

4

*ten.* *p*

-vem - ber wind has flayed the trees to bone, and earth wakes

*mp* *p*

has flayed the trees to bone, and earth wakes

*ten.* *p*

8

*dim.* *mp*

chok-ing on the mould, the soft shroud's fold - ing. He will

*mp*

He will

*dim.* *mp*

chok-ing on the mould, the soft shroud's fold - ing. He will

12

come like frost. One morn-ing when the shrink-ing earth

come like frost. One morn-ing when the shrink-ing earth\_\_

come\_\_ like frost. One morn-ing when the shrink-ing earth

16

o - pens on mist, to find it - self ar - rest - ed in the

o - - pens to find it - self ar - rest - ed in the

o - - pens to find it - self ar - rest - ed in the

*p*

*p*

*p*

19

net of a - lien, sword - set beau - ty. He will come like

net of a - lien, sword - set beau - ty. He will come like

net of a - lien beau - ty. He will come like

He will come like

*distantly*

*distantly*

*dim.*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

24

*poco a poco stringendo e cresc.*

dark. One eve-ning when the burst-ing red De-cem-ber sun draws

*poco a poco stringendo e cresc.*

dark. One eve-ning when the burst-ing red De-cem-ber sun draws

*poco a poco stringendo e cresc.*

dark. One eve-ning when the burst-ing red De-cem-ber sun draws

*poco a poco stringendo e cresc.*

dark. Burst - ing De - cem - ber sun draws

*poco a poco stringendo e cresc.*

28

*mf* *ten.* **meno mosso**

up the sheet and pen-ny-masks its eye to yield the star-snowed

*mf* *ten.*

up the sheet and pen-ny-masks its eye to yield the star-snowed

*mf* *ten.* \*

up the sheet and pen-ny - masks its eye to yield the star-snowed

*mf* *ten.*

up the sheet and pen-ny-masks its eye to yield the star-snowed

**meno mosso**

*mf* *ten.*

\* The first tenors a little more prominent.