

**PROMOTIONAL COPY**  
**for reading only**

**Graham Ross**

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*I sing of a maiden*

for unaccompanied mixed voices

**ENCÔRE**  
*publications*

This work was awarded the 2009 The John Sanders Memorial Prize for Composition.

The first performance was given by the Choir of Gloucester Cathedral,  
conducted by Adrian Partington, on Saturday 11 July 2009.

For more information about The Sanders Society,  
visit [www.sanderssociety.org.uk](http://www.sanderssociety.org.uk)

### **I sing of a maiden**

I sing of a maiden  
That is makeles<sup>1</sup>;  
King of al kings  
To her Son she ches<sup>2</sup>.

He came al so still  
There his mother was,  
As dew in April  
That falleth on the grass.

He came al so still  
To his mother's bour,  
As dew in April  
That falleth on the flour.

He came al so still  
There his mother lay,  
As dew in April  
That falleth on the spray.

Mother and maiden  
Was never none but she;  
Well may such a lady  
Goddess mother be.

Anonymous, 15th century

<sup>1</sup> matchless

<sup>2</sup> chose

# I sing of a maiden

Words: anonymous,  
15th century

Music: GRAHAM ROSS  
(b. 1985)

Unhurried, tenderly (♩. = c.44)

SOPRANO *mp*  
I sing, \_\_\_\_\_ sing \_\_\_\_\_ of a mai-den,

ALTO *p* *< mp*  
Sing, \_\_\_\_\_ I sing, \_\_\_\_\_

TENOR *p* *< mp*  
Sing, \_\_\_\_\_ I sing, \_\_\_\_\_

BASS *mp*  
I \_\_\_\_\_ sing, \_\_\_\_\_

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Unhurried, tenderly (♩. = c.44)

8 *mp espress.* *mf*  
I sing of a mai - den,

*p hushed* *mf*  
sing, \_\_\_\_\_ I n ai - - den,

*p hushed* *mf*  
sing, \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ sing a mai - - den

*mp* *mf*  
sing of a mai - - den,

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*poco rit.* . . . . *a tempo*

13 *mp still* , *mf* *sfp*

make-les; King, King

*mp still* , *sf sudden* *mf*

make-les; King of al kings, King of al kings, of al

*mp espress.* , *mf*

That is make-les; King, King, King

*mp still* , *mf*

make-les; King of al kings, King of al kings

*poco rit.* . . . . *a tempo*

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19 *mf* *f* *div.* *ff*

of al kings To her Son she ches.

*mf* *f* *div.*

kings To her Son (nn)

*mf* *f* *div.*

To her Son, (nn)

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26 *p* **senza rit.** unis. *simply* *mp*

*p* I sing of a mai - den.

*p* unis. *simply* *mp*

*p* a mai - - den.

*p* unis. *simply* *mp* *pp* Al so

*pp* of a mai - den. He came al so

**senza rit.**

34 *mp* *espress.*

There, there his mo - ther was,

unis. *mp* *espress.*

There, there his mo - ther was,

*pp* *p sub.* *mp* *espress.* *mp*

Al so still, al so still There, there his mo - ther was, so

still, He came al so still, *p sub.* unis. *mp*

still, so still, so still, so

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**poco rit.** . . . . . **slower**

41 *p* still, still As dew in A - pril *mp* That

*p* still, still As dew, dew, dew\_

*p* still, still, still As dew *mp* That *mp* fall - eth, that

still, dew, dew\_

**poco rit.** . . . . . **slower**

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**relaxing** . . . . . **Tempo primo** (♩. = c.44)

46 *p legato* fall - eth on grass. Al so still, al so

*mp* fall - - - - eth. *p legato* He came al so still, *p* he

*mp* fall - eth on the grass.

*mp* fall - - - - eth.

**relaxing** . . . . . **Tempo primo** (♩. = c.44)

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51 *p espress.* *mf* *mp*

still, still To his mo-ther's bour, As

*mp* *mf* *mp*

came al so still To his bour, As

pulling back . . . . . a tempo

55 *f espress.* *molto dim.* *pp* *p gently*

dew in A-pril That fall-eth on the flour. I

*molto dim.* *f espress.* *pp* *p gently*

dew, dew That fall - eth on (hmm)

pulling back . . . . . a tempo

61

*mp* *p*

sing, sing of a mai - den (nn).

*unis. mp gently* *p*

I sing (ng).

*mp gently* *p*

I sing (ng).

*p gently* *mp* *p*

I sing (ng).

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**A little more movement, poco rubato**

67

*mp* *p*

He came so still,

*mp*

He

*mp* *mf* *p* *mp*

He came al so still, al so still, he

*mp*

He came al so

**A little more movement, poco rubato**

73 *mp* *mf* SOLO *pp* *echo*

he came al so still, still,

*mf* SOLO *pp* *echo*

came al so still, still,

*mf* SOLO *pp* *echo*

came so still, still,

*mf* SOLO *pp* *echo*

still, still,

80 FULL *p* *p* *espress.*

so still There, there his mo - ther lay,

FULL unis. *p* *p* *espress.*

so still There, there his mo - ther lay,

FULL *p* *p* *espress.*

so still There, there his mo - ther lay,

FULL *p* *mp* *p* *motionless*

so, al so still,

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rit. . . . .

88

*mp* there his mo - ther lay, still *mp* As *p dolce*

*mp* there his mo - ther lay, still *mp* As *p dolce*

*mp* so still there his mo - ther lay, still *mp* As *p dolce*

*mp* so still, *mf* so still,

rit. . . . .

**meno mosso**

slowing still . . . . .

93

*ten.* dew in A - pril That fall - eth on spray. *mp* *p*

dew, dew, dew fall - - - eth. *mp* *p*

dew That fall - eth, that fall - eth on the spray. *mp* *p*

dew, dew fall - - - eth. *p* *mp* *p*

**meno mosso** **slowing still** . . . . .

With more urgency (♩ = c.58)

99 *f* *marked* *sfp*

Mo - ther and mai - den, nev - er she; Well

*f* *marked*

Mo - ther and mai - den Was nev - er none but she;

*f* *marked* *sfp*

Mo - ther and mai - den nev - er she; Well

*f* *marked*

Mo - ther and mai - den Was nev - er none but she;

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With more urgency (♩ = c.58)

103 *ff* *relaxing* *div.* *mf* *unis.*

may such a la - - dy God - des

*mf* *div.* *ff*

Well may such a la - - dy,

*ff* *mf* *God - des,* *unis.* *mf*

may such a la - - dy God - des

*mf* *div.* *ff* *unis.* *mf*

Well may such a la - - dy God - des

*relaxing*

still (♩. = c.44)

107 *mp* *mf*

mo-ther be. I sing,

unis. *mp* *mf*

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*mp* *mf*

mo-ther be. Sing, sing,

*mp* *mp calm*

mo - ther be, I

still (♩. = c.44)

112 SOLO *mp still*

— sing, I sing of a mai - den...

*mp calm*

I sing...

*mp calm*

I sing...

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*mp*

— sing...