Cheryl Frances-Hoad

Your Servant, Elizabeth

Full Score

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Your Servant, Elizabeth

for choir and orchestra
(2022)

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Chester Music

Commissioned by BBC Radio 3 and first performed by the BBC Singers and BBC Concert Orchestra, conducted by Bramwell Tovey at the Royal Albert Hall, London at BBC Proms 2022 on 22nd July 2022.

Duration: *c.* 5½ minutes



This work was written by the composer with support from the 2021 Visiting Research Fellowship in the Creative Arts at Merton College, Oxford.

INSTRUMENTATION

Piccolo
2 Flutes
2 Oboes
Cor Anglais
3 Clarinets in B♭
2 Bassoons
Contrabassoon

4 Horns in F
3 Trumpets in B♭
2 Trombones
Bass Trombone
Tuba

Timpani

Percussion (4 players):
Triangle, Suspended Cymbal, Clash Cymbals, Bass Drum, Glockenspiel

Harp

SATB Choir (soli: Soprano [Queen Elizabeth II] & Tenor [William Byrd])

Organ

Strings

Score in C

Vocal score: CH88258-01
Parts are available on hire from the publisher.
www.wisemusicclassical.com

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COMPOSER'S NOTE

Your Servant, Elizabeth, commissioned for the 2022 Platinum Jubilee celebration at the BBC Proms, also pays homage to William Byrd's *O Lord, make thy servant Elizabeth*, a prayer for Queen Elizabeth I written over 400 years ago. When the BBC approached me about this new work, with the stipulation that it use both Byrd's music and text as a starting point, my initial delight was tinged with apprehension. What would I be able to add? Might it not be a better idea to simply perform this masterpiece of polyphony twice in tonight's concert?

My way 'in' eventually came through words. Whilst Byrd's music will never date, the excerpts he adapted from Psalm 21 for his text concentrated solely on the relationship between the monarch and her God, and felt incomplete in the context of tonight's 21st century celebration. For the past year I have had the great fortune to be a Visiting Research Fellow in the Creative Arts at Merton College Oxford, and so I turned to the college Chaplain, the Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones, for advice. Were there excerpts of other Psalms that I could incorporate, in order to extol not just Queen Elizabeth's relationship with God, but with us? Simon's spine-tinglingly inspiring idea, that Byrd's text be put into dialogue with Queen Elizabeth II's own words, freed me to see this commission in an entirely new light. I imagined William in the act of writing his choral prayer, Queen Elizabeth II speaking directly to us, and revelled in stretching and transforming Byrd's music in service of this new conversation across the centuries.

Cheryl Frances-Hoad (2022)

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TEXT

O Lord, make thy servant Elizabeth our Queen
to rejoice in thy strength:
I declare before you all that my whole life
whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service.
give her her heart's desire,
and deny not the request of her lips;
*I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone**
unless you join in it with me.
but prevent her with thine everlasting blessing,
God help me to make good my vow,
and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.
and give her a long life, even for ever and ever.
I look forward to continuing to serve you
with all my heart.
Your servant, Elizabeth.
Amen.

Lines 1–2, 5–6, 9 & 16:
from text set by William Byrd (1543–1623) adapted from Psalm 21.1–4

Lines 3–4, 7–8 & 10–11:
from the speech made by HM Queen Elizabeth II (when Princess Elizabeth) on her 21st birthday in 1947, broadcast from Cape Town, South Africa.

Lines 13–15:
drawn from a letter to the nation written by HM Queen Elizabeth II and published on 5th February 2022, the eve of the 70th anniversary of her accession to the throne.

Text compiled by the Revd Canon Dr Simon Jones,
Chaplain of Merton College, Oxford.

**This line is repeated at the end in the musical setting.*

Personal Copy

Your servant, Elizabeth

WILLIAM BYRD (adapted from Psalm 21) and
QUEEN ELIZABETH II

CHERYL FRANCES-HOAD

Adagietto ♩ = 56

Piccolo
Flute 1
Flute 2
Oboe 1 2
Cor Anglais
Clarinet in B♭ 1 2 3
Bassoon 1 2
Contrabassoon
Horn in F 1 2 3 4
Trumpet in B♭ 1 2 3
Trombone 1 2
Bass Trombone
Tuba
Timpani
Triangle (Percussion 1)
Suspended Cymbal (Percussion 2)
Bass Drum (Percussion 3)
Glockenspiel (Percussion 4)
Harp
Organ
Solo soprano (Queen Elizabeth II)
Solo tenor (William Byrd)
Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

O Lord, make thy ser - vant E - liz - a - beth our Queen to re - joice in thy strength.

I de -

Adagietto ♩ = 56

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Double Bass

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7

A

Picc.

Fl. 1 2

Ob. 1 2

(1.)

3

poco

p

C. A.

Cl. 1 2 3

Bsn 1 2

Cbsn

1 2 Hn 3 4

mp mf p

Tri.

Sus. Cym.

B. D.

mp

n

Glock.

Hp

mf

QEII

poco

poco

- clare be - fore you all_ that my whole life whe - ther it be long___ or short shall be de - vo - ted to your ser - vice._

W.B.

(mf)

Give her her

S.

mp mf p

O Lord.

A.

mp mf p

O Lord.

T.

mp mf p

O Lord.

B.

mp mf p

A

O Lord.

Vln I

8

div.

mp mf p

mp mf p

Vln II

div.

mp mf p

Vla

div.

mp mf p

Vc.

div.

mf p

D. B.

mf p

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14

Picc.

Fl. 1 2

Ob. 1 2

C. A.

Cl. 1 2 3

1. *mp cantabile* *p*

mp cantabile

Bsn 1 2

Cbsn *mp* *p*

1 2 Hn 3 4 *mp* *p*

Tri.

Sus. Cym. *mp*

B. D.

Glock. *mp* *mp*

Hp *mp* *mf* *mp*

QEII *(mf)* *più f*

W.B. *più f* *poco*

I shall not have the strength to car - ry out this re - so - lu - tion a - lone un - less you join in it

heart's de - sire, and de - ny not the re - quest of her lips.

S.

A. *mp* *p*

T. *mp* *p*

B. *mp* *p*

(8)

Vln I *gliss.* *mp* *mf* *pp*

Vln II *gliss.* *mp* *mf* *pp*

Vla *gliss.* *mp* *mf* *pp*

Vc. *gliss.* *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *pp*

D. B. *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *pp*

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20

B

Picc.
Fl. 1 2
Ob. 1 2
C. A.
Cl. 1 2 3
Bsn 1 2
Cbsn
1 2 Hn 3 4
1 2 Tpt 3
Tbn. 1 2
B. Tbn. Tba
Timp.
Tri.
Sus. Cym.
B. D.
Glock.
Hp
QEII
S.
A.
T.
B.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

1. 2. a 2 a 3 (mf) mp mf f ff glorioso with me, join in it with me, But pre - vent her with thine (div.) unis.

Preliminary Copy

25

Picc.
Fl. 1 2
Ob. 1 2
C. A.
Cl. 1 2 3
Bsn 1 2
Cbsn
1 2 Hn 3 4
1 2 Tpt 3
Tbn. 1 2
B. Tbn. Tba
Timp.
Tri.
Sus. Cym.
B. D.
Glock.
Hp
QEII
W.B.
S.
A.
T.
B.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

mf *mp* *p* *poco* *mp cantabile* 1. *(mf)* *mfcantabile*

God help me make good this vow, and God bless all of you who are will - ing to share in it.

And

e - ver - last - - ing bless - ing,

(8) (div.) unis. div.

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C

31

Picc.

Fl. 1 2

Ob. 1 2

C. A.

Cl. 1 2 3

1 Bsn 2

Cbsn

mp cantabile *mf*

a 2

2.

1

3

Hn 1 2 3 4

Tpt 1 2 3

Tbn. 1 2

B. Tbn. Tba

QEII

W.B.

give her a long life, e - ven for - e - ver and e - ver, for e - ver and e - ver and e - ver,

S.

A.

T.

B.

mfcantabile

And give her a long life, e - ven for - e - ver and

C

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

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Picc.
Fl. 1 2
Ob. 1 2
C. A.
Cl. 1 2 3
1.
1
Bsn
2
Cbsn
Hn 1 2 3 4
Tpt 1 2 3
Tbn. 1 2
B. Tbn. Tba
QEII
I look for - ward to con - ti - nu - ing to serve you
W.B.
and give her a long life e - ven for - e - ver and e - ver and e - - - - - - - - - ver.
S.
life.
e - ver, e - ven for e - ver and e - ver.
A.
life, e - ven for - e - ver and e - ver,
T.
- e - ver and e - - - - - ver.
B.
e - ven for - e - ver and e - ver.
life. for e - ver and e - ver and e - - ver.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

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D a feeling of cresc. poco a poco to letter F

44

Picc.

Fl. 1 2 — a 2 — *p cantabile*

Ob. 1 2 — a 2 — *p cantabile*

C. A. — *p cantabile*

Cl. 1 2 3

Bsn 1 2

Cbsn

Hn 1 2 3 4

Tpt 1 2 3

Tbn. 1 2

B. Tbn. Tba

Hp — *mf*

Org. — 4′, (adding 8′ & 2′ later: no 16′ stops on manuals) — *p*

QEII — *mp* — *mf* — with all my heart, with all my heart, with all my heart, with all my heart, with all my

W.B. — *p cantabile* — A

(Chorus: stagger breaths to end) — *p cantabile*

S. — *p cantabile* — A

A. — *p cantabile* — A

T. — *p cantabile* — A

B. — *p cantabile* — A

D a feeling of cresc. poco a poco to letter F

Vln I — div. — *p cantabile*

Vln II — div. — *p cantabile*

Vla — div. — *p cantabile*

Vc. — *p cantabile*

D. B. — *p cantabile*

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53

Picc.

Fl. 1 2 — (mp) — (mf)

Ob. 1 2 — (mp) — (mf)

C. A. — (mp) — (mp)

Cl. 1 2 3 — a 3 — mp cantabile — (mf)

Bsn 1 2 — a 2 — mp cantabile — (mf)

Cbsn — mp cantabile — (mf)

Hn 1 2 — mp cantabile — (mf)

Hn 3 4 — mp cantabile — (mf)

Tpt 1 2 3 — a 3 — mf

Tbn. 1 2

B. Tbn. Tba — Tba — mp cantabile — (mf)

Hp — (f)

Org. — (mp) — (mf)

QEII — (f) — f cantabile — heart, with all my heart, my heart.

W.B. — (mp) — (mf)

S. — (mp) — (mf)

A. — (mp) — (mf)

T. — (mp) — (mf)

B. — (mp) — (mf)

Vln I — (mp) — (mf)

Vln II — (mp) — (mf)

Vla — (mp) — (mf)

Vc. — (mp) — (mf)

D. B. — (mp) — (mf)

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E

63

Picc.

Fl. 1 2 — a 2 — (f) — (ff) — ff

Ob. 1 2 — a 2 — (f) — (ff)

C. A. — ff — (ff)

Cl. 1 2 3 — a 3 — ff

Bsn 1 2 — a 2 — (f) — (ff)

Cbsn — (f) — (ff)

Hn 1 2 3 4 — (f) — (ff)

Tpt 1 2 3 — a 3 — (f) — (ff)

Tbn. 1 2 — a 2 — ff — B. Tbn.

B. Tbn. Tba — Tba — (f) — (ff)

Timp. — (lower notes if viable) — f — (ff)

Tri. — f — (ff)

Sus. Cym. — mf

B. D. — mf

Hp — (ff) — (8)

Org. — (f) — (ff)

W.B. — (f) — (ff)

S. — (f) — (ff)

A. — (f) — (ff)

T. — (f) — (ff)

B. — (lower notes if viable) — (f) — (ff)

E

Vln I — (f) — (ff)

Vln II — (f) — (ff)

Vla — (f) — (ff)

Vc. — (f) — (ff)

D. B. — (f) — (ff)

Preliminary

F

73

Picc.
Fl. 1 2
Ob. 1 2
C. A.
Cl. 1 2 3
Bsn 1 2
Cbsn
1 2 Hn 3 4
Tpt 1 2 3
Tbn. 1 2
B. Tbn. Tba
Timp.
Tri.
B. D.
Cl. Cym.
Hp
Org.
QEII
W.B.
S.
A.
T.
B.

F

Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

fff

p sub.

pp

mf

mp

I shall not have the strength to car - ry out this re - so - lu - tion a - lone, Your Ser - vant, E - liz - a - beth.

- men.

Cheryl Frances-Hoad,
May 2022

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