

DUO SERAPHIM



An anthem for Trinity Sunday, 1963, at King's College, Cambridge

Philip Tagg



Musematic Edutainment, Huddersfield, 2016

About the anthem

In 1962 I was a very young man. I hadn't even left school. I loved playing the church organ, I was a big Bartók fan (I still am) and, attending school in Cambridge, I hardly ever missed an opportunity to hear the King's College Choir do evensong if Byrd, Weelkes, Tomkins or any other member of the Tudor gang was on the menu. In that same year King's College announced a prize for a new anthem for Trinity. I leapt at the opportunity, not so much because of the chance of winning the princely sum of £5 (= £75 in today's money) as because the winning anthem would be performed by the College Choir at Matins the following year (1963). In late May 1962 I locked myself in a school music practice room for several hours a day during a whole week and managed to come up with something that apparently met with the judges' favour. I was delighted to learn from none other than David Willcocks (→) that I was one of the prize's two winners.

KING'S COLLEGE,
CAMBRIDGE.
12 June 1963

Dear Philip,
Many thanks for your letter.
I am so glad to know that you were pleased with the performance of *Duo Seraphim* on Sunday. I shall pass on your thanks to the members of the Choir.
Several people have said how very much they enjoyed both anthems.
With all good wishes
Yours ever
David Willcocks

Duo Seraphim isn't easily sung but it's far from impossible and, judging from reactions in 1963, it's fun. It's set for max. 8 voices (SSAATTBB) but a lot of it runs a 6 (SSATTB). It sounds best if 'the two seraphim' (SS and TT) sing in 'collegiate stereo' (*Decani/Cantoris*). You'll hear influences from not only Bartók and Byrd: there's also some Hi-Los in there! The only differences between this and the original edition are: [1] 2 bars of dubious close harmony have been cut; [2] word setting is better in the melismatic passages.

Philip Tagg, Huddersfield, January 2016

KING'S COLLEGE,
CAMBRIDGE.
October 16, 1962.

P.D. Tagg Esq.,
Selwyn College.

Dear Mr Tagg,

I am happy to tell you that you have been awarded a prize of £5 for your Anthem for Trinity. I should be grateful if you would see me some time this term so that we can discuss the preparation of a stencil so that copies may be available for the Choir. King's College will, of course, pay for the cost of producing the copies.

I am keeping the MS of the Anthem, but return the Preces and Responses.

Yours sincerely,

David Willcocks

As promised, the Choir of King's College (Cambridge) sang *Duo Seraphim* at Matins on Trinity Sunday 1963. I thought they made a really good job of it: clear, clean singing and plenty of 'go' —no poncing about. It was great! I was so grateful and wrote a short letter of thanks to David Willcocks. His reply is shown (←) here. The anthem has to my knowledge only been performed on that one occasion.

King's College Chapel: The Nave in 1963



DUO SERAPHIM

In Festo S.S. Trinit. ap. Colleg. Reg. Cantab. MXIXLXIII
Anthem for Trinity by Philip Tagg (1962)

Allegro (♩ ≈ 176)

Dec. *f* Du - o Se - ra - phim clam - a - bant

S *f* Du - o Ser - a - phim clam - a - bant

Can. *f* Du - o Ser - a - phim clam - a - bant

Dec. *f* al - ter ad alt - er - um, alt - er ad al - ter - um, alt - er ad alt -

S *f* al - ter ad alt - er - um, al - ter ad alt - er - um, alt - er ad

Can. *f* al - ter ad alt - er - um, al - ter ad alt - er - um, alt - er ad

Dec. *mp* erum. Sanc - tus

S *mp* alt - erum Sanc - tus *mf* Sanc - tus

Can. *mp* alt - erum Sanc - tus *mf* Sanc - tus

Dec. *mp* Sanc - tus

A *mp* Sanc - tus *mf* Sanc - tus

Can. *mp* Sanc - tus *mf* Sanc - tus

Dec. *mp* Sanc - tus

T *mp* Sanc - tus *mf* Sanc - tus

Can. *mp* Sanc - tus *mf* Sanc - tus

Dec. *mp* Sanc - tus

B *mp* Sanc - tus *mf* Sanc - tus

Can. *mp* Sanc - tus *mf* Sanc - tus



10 *mf* *ritenuto* 13 **B** *a tempo*

S Sanc - tus, Sa - tus.

A Sanc - tus, Sanc - tus. NON DIV.

T Sanc - tus, Sanc - tus.

B Sanc - tus, Sanc - tus. NON DIV. *mp*

tus, Sanc - tus, Sanc - tus. Dom - in-us

15 *mp*

S (NON DIV.) Dom - inus De - us

S Dom - inus De - us

A Dom - in - us De - us Sab - ba oth Sab - ba -

T Dom - in - us De - us Sa - ba - oth Sab - ba - oth

T Dom - in - us De - us Sab - ba - oth, Domi nus De - us Sab - ba - oth

B De - us Sab - ba - oth, Dom - in - us De - us, Sab - ba - oth

18 C

S *mf* San - ba - oth. DIV. Ple - na est om - nis ter-ra

S *mf* San - ba - oth. DIV. Ple - na est om - nis

A oth, De - us Sab - ba - oth. *f* Ple -

T *mf* De - us Sab - ba - oth. Ple - na est, ple -

T *mf* Sab - ba - oth. ple - na est om - nis

B Do-min-us De - us Sab-ba - oth. *mf* ple - na est

22 D

S *p* Ple - na est om - nis ter-ra om - nis terra Glo-ri-a ej-us

S *p* ter-ra Ple - om - nis ter - ra glo - r - a ej-us

A *sfz* na est om - nis ter - ra glo - ri-a ej-us

T *p* - na est, ple-na est om - nis ter - ra glo - ri-a

T *p* ter-ra, om - nis ter-ra ple-na est om nus ter-ra glo - r-a

B *p* om - nis ter-ra ple - na est ter-ra glo - ri-a

26 *mp* *mf* *f* *rallentando*

S glo - ri - a ej - us glo - ri - a ej - us glo - ri - a ej - - - jus.

S glo - ri - a ej - us glo - ri - a ej - us glo - ri - a ej - - - jus.

A glo - ri - a e - jus glo - ri - a ej - us glo - ri - a ej - - - jus.

T⁸ ej - us glo - ri - a ej - us glo - ri - a ej - us glo - ri - a ej - - - jus. NON DIV.

T⁸ ej - us glo - ri - a ej - us glo - ri - a ej - - - jus, glo - ri - a ej - - - jus.

B ej - us glo - ri - a e - jus glo - ri - a ej - us glo - ri - a ej - - - us.

31 **E** *mp*

A Tres sunt qui test - i - mon - i - um dant in

T⁸ Tres sunt qui test - i - mon - i - um dant -

B Tres sunt qui test - - - ti - mon - i - um

F *p*

S *cresc* *dim.* Et hi

A *mf* *dim.* *p* cœl - - - o.

T⁸ [dant] *mf* *dim.* *p* in cœl - - - o.

B *mf* *dim.* *p* dant in cœl - - - o. TACET

35 **F** *Quasi senza misura*

S
tres un - um sunt et hi tres un - um

A *p*
et hi tres un - um sunt et hi tres un - um

T *p*
et hi tres un - um sunt et hi tres - - um

37 **G** *Tempo giusto* (♩ ≈ 176)

S
sunt.

A
sunt.

T *mf*
sunt. Sanc - tus, Sanc - tus

T *mf*
Sanc - tus, Sanc - tus, Sanc -

B *mf*
Sanc - tus, Sanc - tus

42 *mf*

S
Sanc - tus, Sanc - tus, Sanc -

A *mf*
Sanc - tus, Sanc - tus, Sanc - tus,

T *mf*
Sanc - tus, Sanc - tus, Sanc -

T *mf*
- tus, Sanc - tus,

B *mf*
Sanc - tus, Sanc - tus, Sanc - tus, Sanc -



57 J

S. *mp* *mf*
om - nis ter-ra om - nis terra Glo-ri-a ej-us glo - ri-a ej-us

S. *mp* *mf*
- na est om - nis ter - ra glo - r-a ej-us glo - ri-a ej-us

A. *sfz* *mf*
om - nis ter - ra glo - ri-a ej-us glo - ri-a e-jus

T. *mp* *mf*
ple-na est om - nis ter - ra glo - ri-a ej-us glo - ri-a

T. *mp* *mf*
ter-ra ple-na est om - nis ter-ra glo - r-a ej-us glo - ri-a

B. *mp* *mf*
ple - na est ter-ra glo - ri-a ej-us glo - ri-a

61 *allargando, ff ritardando* *lunga*

S. *f* *ff*
glo - ri-a ej-us glo - ri-a ej - jus.

S. *f* *ff* *lunga*
glo - ri-a ej-us glo - ri-a ej - jus.

A. *f* *ff* *lunga*
glo - ri-a ej-us glo - ri-a ej - us, glo - ri-a ej - jus.

T. *f* *ff* *lunga*
ej-us glo - ri-a ej-us glo - ri-a ej - jus.

T. *f* *ff* *lunga*
ej-us glo - ri-a ej - jus, glo - ri-a ej - jus.

B. *f* *ff* *lunga*
e - jus glo - ri-a ej-us glo - ri-a ej - us.

