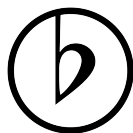


S T E P H E N   B A R K E R

**Mary's Madrigal**

PREVIEW



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## Mary's Madrigal

Time of Eden, Adam's Lady  
Plucked an apple, sinful, pray thee?  
Snatched the earth from God's command,  
All from the fingers of Eve's right hand.

Holy Lady, white as chalk  
In your garden, where you walk;  
Seed of a future apple tree,  
Of Jesse's root-spring at your knee.

As this tree in the garden grows  
Fine, Madonna's own sweet rose;  
And when he's killed by cruel men —  
We look to your Blessed Name again.

Michael Butler  
May 2020

### Composer's notes

The opening needs to be sung delicately and without rushing. Tempo indications are a guide and will depend largely on the acoustic of the building you're singing in; changes to tempo (such as **rit...** **poco allarg...** etc.) are only as long as the dotted extension shows – after this assume an 'a tempo'. There should be a build up with a sense of agitation as you reach the second half of verse three: '*And when he's killed by cruel men*' which then flows into a celebration on '*your Blessed Name*' before calmly returning to the opening verse to conclude the piece.

I'd like to thank Michael for permission to use his text in this composition, and I hope that he feels that I have done it justice!

Steve

Stephen Barker  
Fordwich, Canterbury, UK  
August 2023

*Mary's Madrigal* was first performed by St Stephen's Church Choir, Canterbury,  
at the Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

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Typeset using Dorico

For St Stephen's Church Choir, Canterbury  
**Mary's Madrigal**

Words:  
**Michael Butler**

Music:  
**Stephen Barker**  
b. 1977

Calmly, with a sense of mystery (♩ = c. 64)

*p* *mp*

SOPRANO  
ALTO

TENOR  
BASS

Time of E - den, A - dam's La - dy Plucked an ap - ple,

4 rit. .... *f* *mp*

sin - ful, pray thee? Snatched the earth from God's com - mand All from the

*f* *mp*

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Ho - ly La - dy white as chalk

8 *(senza cresc.)* *rit.* *pp* **Fine** *mp*

fin - gers of Eve's right hand.

Ho - ly La - dy, white as chalk

*(senza cresc.)* *pp* *mp*

fin - gers of Eve's right hand.

Ho - ly La - dy, white as chalk

*(senza cresc.)* *pp*

fin - gers of Eve's right hand.

*(senza cresc.)* *pp*

fin - gers of Eve's right hand.

*(senza cresc.)* *pp*

*poco allarg.*

In your gar - den,

12 *f*

In your gar - den where you walk; Seed of a fu - ture ap - ple tree,

In your gar - den where you walk; Seed of a fu - ture ap - ple tree,

Seed of a fu - ture ap - ple tree,

Seed of a tree,

16 *mp* *rit.*..... *p* *accel. poco a poco*.....

Of Jes - se's root - - spring at your knee.

Of Jes - se's root - - spring at your knee.

Of Jes - se's root - - spring at your knee. *mp* As this tree

Of Jes - se's root - - spring at your knee. *mp* As this tree

*mp* *p* *mp*

20 *mf*

Grows Fine, Ma - don - na's own sweet rose; \_\_\_\_\_

Ma - don - na's own sweet rose;

*mf*

in the gar - den grows Fine, Ma - don - na's own sweet rose; \_\_\_\_\_

*mf*

in the gar - den grows Fine, Ma - don - na's own sweet rose;

*mf*

**Agitato** (♩ = c. 76)

24 *f* *ff*

And when he's killed by cru - - - el men —

*f* *ff*

And when he's killed by cru - - - el men —

*f* *ff*

And when he's killed by cru - - - el men —

*f* *ff*

And when he's killed by cru - - - el men —

27 *mp* *f*

We Look to your Bles - sed Name a - gain, your Bles - sed

*mp* *f*

We Look to your Bles - sed Name a - gain, your Bles -

*mp* *f*

We Look to your Bles - sed Name - a - gain,

*mp* *f*

We Look to your Bles - sed Name a - gain,

*mp* *f*

30 *ff* **rit.** ..... Name a - gain. **D.C. al Fine**

Name a - gain, your Bles - sed Name, your Name a - gain.

- sed Name, your Bles - sed Name a - gain.

your Bles - sed Name, your Name a - gain.

your Bles - sed Name, your Name a - gain.

*ff*

Fordwich, Canterbury, UK  
 Feast of St Bartholomew the Apostle, 2023

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