

PART III – CATHEDRAL CHORAL SOCIETY

My Beloved Son (World Premiere)

Gwyneth Walker, b. 1947

The 2007 Third Millennium Carol Commission: This carol has been commissioned by the Cathedral Choral Society, with support from the Richard Wayne Dirksen Memorial Endowment Fund, for this concert. See the Program Notes for Dr. Walker's own words about this carol.

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus
Born to set thy people free:
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in thee.*

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me:
The form of a woman was lowly,
But it welcomed a king.
What hath God wrought?
Our low dust has risen beyond all return.

Can such joy be too great
In the form of a woman?
Old as the rivers out of Eden
Comes her story of wrong,
And from that wrong she has washed us clean.

To astonish our senses
She built a house of good.
The muddied streams, the parched earth:
They fade in the glow of heaven adorned.

*Our true strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.*

O Timeless God,
Unchanging Love
Please:
Kindle yourself now,
Recreate us in love
As in love you conceived your Son
Before all creation.
When you spoke light into the world.
Let your word become our flesh.

Need overwhelms us now:
Take notice, take pity,
Take away this need,
You that gave us your son,
And bring us home free, safe, saved.

*Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

My son whom I love,
Whom I made in my womb,
Propelled by the heavenly spirals of God
That created me
And arranged all my parts
And in my womb
Planted a paradise of music,
A flowering symphony
Now you and I,
My son whom I adore,
We are conducting a great crowd of wise women,
Who pray with me for your help and salvation.

*By thine own eternal Spirit,
Bring our hearts and minds to ease
By thine own sufficient merit
Raise us to eternal peace.*

My beloved son whom I love
Whom I made in my womb,
My son whom I adore. . .
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me.

— Charles Wesley (1707–1788)
O quam magnum miraculum and O fili dilectissime,
Hildegard von Bingen (1098–1179)
tr. Christopher Brunelle

Jennifer Dusek, soprano