

# A Prayer for Love

Stephanie Martin

on a text by  
William Temple

### **Composer's note**

When David Link asked me to compose an a cappella choral piece for a meeting of cathedral Deans, I searched for a text which might suit not only the decanal occasion, but could also ameliorate the heaviness of the current time, in which love seems conspicuously absent.

Archbishop **William Temple's** lyric prayer echoes the poetic tradition of Celtic blessings, so I have incorporated some of that spirit into this motet.

I am very grateful to David Link and his cathedral choir who have embraced my choral music, and supported the creation of this new work.

**Stephanie Martin** is an associate professor of music at York University in Toronto, Canada, and composes primarily choral music, opera and oratorio. A complete list of works can be found on her website:

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July 14, 2021

# A Prayer for Love

William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury  
(1881-1945)

Stephanie Martin, Toronto 2021

**Adagio** ♩=60

S. *p* O God of love, O God of love, we pray thee to give us love: *rit.*

A. *p* O God of love, God of love, God of love, we pray thee to give us love:

T. *p* O God of love, God of love, God of love, we pray thee to give us love:

B. *p* O God of love, God of love, we pray thee to give us love:

**A**

**Flowing** ♩=88

S. *mp* Love in our think-ing, love in our speak-ing,

A. *mp* Love in our think-ing, in our think-ing, love in our think-ing, love in our think-ing,

T. *mp* Love in our think-ing, love in our speak-ing,

B. *mp* Love in our think-ing, in our think-ing, love in our think-ing, love in our think-ing,

13 B *mf*

S. love in our think - ing, love in our speak ing, love

A. speak-ing, love in our think-ing, love in our speak ing, love

T. love in our think - ing, love in our speak ing, love

B. speak-ing love in our think ing, love in our speak ing, love

C

18 *subito decresc mp*

S. in our do - ing, and love in the hid-den plac-es, love in the hid-den plac-es,

A. in our do - ing, and love in the hid-den plac-es, love in the hid-den plac-es,

T. in our do ing, and love in the hid-den plac-es, love in the hid-den plac-es,

B. in our do - ing, and love in the hid-den plac-es, love in the hid-den plac-es,

24

S. love in the hid - den plac - es of our souls, \_\_\_\_\_ of our souls; *p*

A. love in the hid - den plac - es of our souls, \_\_\_\_\_ of our souls; *p*

T. love in the hid - den plac - es of our souls, of our souls; \_\_\_\_\_ *p*

B. love in the hid - den plac - es of our souls, \_\_\_\_\_ *p*

D

30

S. \_\_\_\_\_ *mp* O God of love, O God of love, we pray thee to give us *rit.*

A. \_\_\_\_\_ *mp* O God of love, God of love, God of love, we pray thee to give us

T. \_\_\_\_\_ *mp* O God of love, God of love, God of love, we pray thee to give us

B. \_\_\_\_\_ *mp* O God of love, God of love, we pray thee to give us

E

Lilting  $\text{♩} = 48$ 

37 *p* *mp*

S. love: Love of our neigh-bours near and far; Love of friends, old and

A. love: Love of our neigh-bours near and far; near and far Love of friends,

T. love: Love of our neigh-bours near and far; near and far Love of friends, old and

B. love: Love of our neigh-bours near and far; near and far; Love of friends old and

43 *mf*

S. new; Love of those with whom we find it hard to bear, \_\_\_\_\_ And love of

A. friends old and new; Love of those with whom we find\_ it hard to\_ bear, love of

T. new; old and new; Love of those with whom we find it hard\_ to\_ bear, love of

B. new Love of those with whom we find it hard to bear, \_\_\_\_\_ And love of

F

49

S. *mp*  
 those who find it hard to bear with us; Love of those with whom we work, And love of

A. *mp*  
 those who find it hard to bear with us; Love of those with whom we work, and love of

T. *mp*  
 those who find it hard to bear with us; Love of those with whom we work, and love of

B. *mp*  
 those who find it hard to bear with us; Love of those with whom we work, and love of

G

56

S. *mf*  
 those with whom we take our ease; Love in joy, love in

A. *mf*  
 those with whom, with whom we take our ease; Love in joy, love in

T. *mf*  
 those with whom, whom we take our ease; take our ease; Love in joy, love in

B. *mf*  
 those with whom, with whom, we take our ease; Love in joy, love in

8

62

S. sor - row; Love in life, and love in death; That so at

A. sor - row; Love in life, and love in death; That so at

T. sor - row; Love in life, and love in death; That so at

B. sor - row; Love in life, and love in death; That so at

69

S. length we may be worth - y to dwell with thee, to dwell with thee, who art e ter - nal

A. length we may be worth - y to dwell with thee, to dwell with thee, who art e ter -

T. length we may be worth - y to dwell with thee, to dwell with thee, who art e ter -

B. length we may be worth - y to dwell with thee, to dwell with thee, who art e ter -



I  
Adagio (Tempo primo)

77

S. love. O God of love,

A. nal love. O God of love, God of

T. nal love. O God of love, God of

B. nal love. O God of

82

S. O God of love, we pray thee to give us love.

A. love, God of love, we pray thee to give us love.

T. love, God of love, we pray thee to give us love.

B. love, God of love, we pray thee to give us love.

*molto rit.* *pp*