

for Dr David Price & the choir of Portsmouth Cathedral

# Chanson de normandie\*

An introit for D-Day 80

Paul VERLAINE (1844-96)

George ARTHUR RICHFORD (\*1985)

Not fast (c. ♩ = 60)

S  
A  
*mp* Les sang-lots long, les sang-lots long, Des vi-o-lons De l'au-tom-ne

T  
B

*The long sobs of violins of Autumn*

5

*mf* Bless(ent) mon coeur, blessent mon coeur, D'une lan-gueur Mo-no-tone...

Mo-no-tone...

Mo-no-tone...

Mo-no-tone..

*wound my heart with a monotonous langour.*

10

*p* Tout suf-fo-cant, suf-fo-cant Et blê-me,

*pp* (n) *f* quand Son-ne l'heure, quand

(n) quand Son-ne l'heure,

*All breathless and pale, when the hour sounds,*

\* Lines from this poem were broadcast to the French Resistance by the Special Operations Executive (SOW) as part of *Operation Overload*. The first three lines of the poem indicated that the invasion of Normandy was to occur within two weeks. On the 5th June 1944 the next lines: "Blessent mon coeur / d'une langueur / monotone" were broadcast. D-Day was imminent.

15 *cedez* *sub pp*

son-ne l'heur Je me sou - viens je me sou - viens Des jours an - ciens, \_\_\_

*sub pp*

*I remember the old days...*

20 *cedez* *a tempo*

des\_ jours an - ciens an - ciens \_\_\_

*ppp* je me sou - viens des\_ jours an - ciens *ff* Et je an - ciens

25

pleu - - re, pleu - - - - re, \_\_\_

*... and I cry*

30

Et je m'en vais, \_\_\_

*p* Et je m'en vais Au vent mau vais. Qui m'em m'em port -

*And I go in the ill wind... ... that carries me*

36

**Ecstatic** **Slowing to the end**

por - te **ppp** De - ça, de - là *sotto voce* Pa - reil à la - te Pa -

... here... ... there...

42

Pa - reil à la feuille mort.

Feuille, la feuille, la feuille mort. reil à la Feuille, la feuille mort. Pa - reil à la feuille mort.

... like a dead leaf.