

The Hazelnut

A piece for choir by Joe Bates

Performance Notes

Duration – 4'

Instrumentation – SATB unaccompanied

Text

He showed me a little thing,
the quantity of a hazelnut,
lying in the palm of my hand;
as round as a ball.

I thought: What may this be?

I was answered: It is all that is made.

I marvelled: How it might last?

I thought it might suddenly have fallen to naught for littleness.

I was answered: It lasteth, and ever shall last for that God loves it.

This little thing that is made, I thought it might have fallen to naught for littleness.

Julian of Norwich, from *Revelations of Divine Love (The Long Text)*, adapted by Joe Bates

Programme Note

In 1373, an anchoress from Norwich named Julian received a series of divine revelations on her deathbed. She dictated her interpretation of these revelations in two stunning texts, both titled *Revelations of Divine Love*. They are beautiful, idiosyncratic accounts of her inexpressible experience. They are the earliest surviving English text written by a woman. In this passage, the whole of creation is revealed to her in a ball the size of a hazelnut. The piece is dedicated to my nephew, Zack Haisell.

Commissioned by Choir & Organ and written for National Youth Choirs of Great Britain.

for Zack Haisell

The Hazelnut

Julian of Norwich

Joe Bates

Growing (♩ = c. 56)

mp \leftarrow *mf* *sub. mp* \leftarrow *mf* $>$ *pp*

Soprano
He showed me, He showed me a lit - tle thing, the quan - ti - ty of a

Alto
He showed He showed me a lit - tle thing, the quan - ti - ty of a

Tenor
He He showed me a lit - tle thing, the quan - ti - ty of a

Bass
He He showed me a lit - tle thing, the quan - ti - ty of a

for rehearsal only

A

6

mp \leftarrow *f* $>$ *mf* *mp* \leftarrow *mf* \leftarrow *f*

S.
ha - zel - nut. He showed me, He showed me a lit - tle thing, —

A.
ha - zel - nut. He showed me, He showed me a lit - tle thing, —

T.
ha - zel - nut. He showed me, He showed me a lit - tle thing, —

B.
ha - zel - nut. He showed me, He showed me a lit - tle thing, —

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10

S. *mf* *mp* *f* **B** *p*
 ly - ing in the palm of my hand; as round as a ball. I

A. *mf* *mp* *f* *p*
 ly - ing in the palm of my hand; as round as a ball. I

T. *mf* *mp* *f* *mp*
 ly - ing in the palm of my hand; as round as a ball. I won -

B. *mf* *mp* *f* *mp*
 ly - ing in the palm of my hand; as round as a ball. I won -

15

S. *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mf* *p*
 won - dered, "What may this be?" I was

A. *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mf* *p*
 won - dered, "What may this be?" I was

T. *f* *mf* *mf* *f* *mf* *mp* *p*
 - dered, "What may this be?" I was an - - - swered, I was an -

B. *f* *mf* *mf* *f* *mf* *mp* *p*
 - dered, "What may this be?" I was an - - - swered, I was an -

21 *mp* > *p* *pp* **C** *mf* *mp*

S. an - swered, an - swered, "It is all that is made, it is

A. an - swered, an - swered, "It is all that's made, it is

T. - swered, an - swered, "It is all that's made, it is

B. - swered, an - swered, "It is all that's made, it is

mp > *p* *pp* *mp* *mf* *mp*

pp *mp* *mf* *f* prominent

pp *mp* *mf* *mf*

mp > *p* *pp* *mp* *mf*

27 **D** *p* < *mp* *p*

S. — made." I mar - velled, "How might it last?

A. all that is made." I mar - velled, "How might it last?"

T. all that is made." I mar - velled, "How might it last?"

B. all that is made." I mar - velled, "How might it last?"

p < *mp* *p*

p < *mp* *p*

p < *mp* *p*

p

32

S. *pp* *mp* breathless *mf* **E** *mp* *p*
 I thought, I thought it might for lit - tle - ness. hm

A. *pp* *mp* breathless *mf* *mp* warm
 I thought, I thought it might have fall - en to naught for lit - tle - ness. sud - den -

T. *pp* *mp* breathless *mf* *mp* warm
 I thought, I thought it might fall to naught for lit - tle - ness. sud - den -

B. *pp* *mp* breathless *mf* *mp* *p*
 I thought, I thought it might fall to naught for lit - tle - ness. hm

37

S. *mp* *p* *mp* warmly
 for lit - tle - ness! might fall for lit - tle - ness

A. *p* *pp*
 - ly have fall - en to naught for hm hm, hm

T. *mp* *p* *pp*
 - ly fall it might have fall - en to naught for lit - tle - ness

B. *mp* *p* *pp*
 hm hm

40

S. hm I was answered

A. sud - den - - ly I I was answered

T. hm have fall - en to naught for lit - tle - ness. I was an - -

B. sud - den - - ly I was an - -

43

S. fall - en to naught for lit - tle - ness I was answered, for

A. fall - en to naught for lit - tle - ness I was might have fall - en to naught for

T. - - - - - swered, I was

B. - - - - - swered, I was

The Hazelnut

F Poco piu mosso (♩ = c. 60)

45

S. *f* *emphatic* *ff* *mf*
lit - tle - ness, an - swered, and ev - er shall last_ that God_

A. *f* *emphatic* *ff* *mf*
lit - tle - ness an - swered, and ev - er shall last_ that God_

T. *pp* *mf* *emphatic* *ff* *mf*
an - - - swered, "It last - eth, and ev - er shall last_ that God_

B. *pp* *mf* *emphatic* *ff* *mf*
an - - - swered, "It last - eth, and ev - er shall last_ that God

49

S. *mp* *mf* *mp* *accel.....*
loves_ it. It last - eth, and ev - er shall last that God_

A. *mp* *mf* *mp*
loves_ it. It last - eth, and ev - er shall last that God_

T. *mp* *mf* *mp*
loves_ it." It last - eth, and ev - er shall last that God_

B. *mp* *mf* *mp*
loves_ it. It last - eth, and ev - er shall last that God_

55 *mf* *mp* **G** *Meno mosso* (♩ = c. 54) *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

S. — loves, that — God loves it." — He showed me, he showed me,

A. — loves, that — God loves it." — He showed me, he showed me,

T. — loves, that — God loves it." — He showed me, he showed me,

B. — loves, that — God loves it." — He he showed me

61 *mp* *p*

S. this lit - tle thing — I thought

A. this lit - tle thing — I thought

T. this lit - tle thing — I thought

B. this lit - tle thing, this li - ttle thing that is made, — I thought

mp *mp free* *p*

65

S. *mf* \rightarrow *mp* *p* hushed
I thought it might have__ fall - en to naught for lit - tle - ness...

A. *mf* \rightarrow *mp* *p* hushed
I thought it might have__ fall - en to naught for lit - tle - ness...

T. *mf* \rightarrow *mp* *p* hushed
I thought it might have__ fall - en to naught for lit - tle - ness...

B. *mf* \rightarrow *mp* *p* hushed
I thought it might have__ fall - en to naught for lit - tle - ness...

The musical score is for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano. It is in 4/4 time and begins at measure 65. The lyrics are: "I thought it might have__ fall - en to naught for lit - tle - ness...". The vocal parts feature dynamics of *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano) for the first part, and *p* (piano) for the second part, with the instruction "hushed". The piano accompaniment also features *mf* and *mp* dynamics, and a *p* dynamic for the final section. The score includes triplets and slurs in both the vocal and piano parts.