

GREG BARTHOLOMEW

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# The Tree

A setting of the poem by 19<sup>th</sup> Century American poet  
Jones Very

for unaccompanied mixed choir  
with piano reduction for rehearsal only

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# The Tree



*Jones Very* (1813 – 1880)

I love thee when thy swelling buds appear,  
And one by one their tender leaves unfold,  
As if they knew that warmer suns were near,  
Nor longer sought to hide from winter's cold;  
And when with darker growth thy leaves are seen  
To veil from view the early robin's nest,  
I love to lie beneath thy waving screen,  
With limbs by summer's heat and toil oppress'd;  
And when the autumn winds have stript thee bare,  
And round thee lies the smooth, untrodden snow,  
When naught is thine that made thee once so fair,  
I love to watch thy shadowy form below,  
And through thy leafless arms to look above  
On stars that brighter beam when most we need their love.

For unaccompanied mixed choir  
with piano reduction for rehearsal only

Duration: 3 minutes

*The Tree* was composed at the 2003 Oxford Summer Institutes at Lehigh, where it received a reading by the Princeton Singers under the direction of Steven Sametz. The premiere performances were given by the American University Chamber Singers under the direction of Daniel Abraham on April 2 and 3, 2004, at the Harold & Sylvia Greenberg Theatre, Washington, D.C.

For information about composer Greg Bartholomew, visit [www.gregbartholomew.com](http://www.gregbartholomew.com).

**BURKE & BAGLEY**

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For Richard G. Hutter

# The Tree

Jones Very  
(1813 - 1880)

Greg Bartholomew  
(b. 1957)

$\text{♩} = 90$  *Broadly, in awe of the miracle*

**Soprano**  
*mp* I love thee \_\_\_\_\_ when thy swell - ing buds ap - pear, and one by one thy  
*mf*

**Alto**  
*mp* I love thee \_\_\_\_\_ when thy swell - ing buds ap - pear, and one by  
*mf*

**Tenor**  
*mp* I love thee \_\_\_\_\_ when thy swell - ing buds ap - pear, and  
*mf*

**Bass**  
*mp* I love thee \_\_\_\_\_ when thy swell - ing buds ap - pear, and one  
*mf*

**Piano**  
 $\text{♩} = 90$

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$\text{♩} = 100$  *a little faster*

8

ten - der leaves un - fold, As if they knew that \_\_\_\_\_ warm

one thy leaves un - fold, As if they knew, they knew warm

one by one their leaves un - fold, They knew that warm - er

by one un - fold, As if they knew, knew that warm - er

$\text{♩} = 100$  *a little faster*

15

suns were near, nor long - er sought to hide from win - ter's cold;

suns were near, nor long - er sought to hide from win - ter's cold;

suns were near, nor long - er sought to hide from win - ter's cold;

suns were near, as if they no long - er sought to hide from win - ter's cold;

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21

**B** *mf* **rall.**

To veil from view the ear - ly ro - bin's nest,

To veil from view the ear - ly ro - bin's nest,

And when with dark - er growth thy leaves are seen to veil from view the ro - bin's nest,

And when with dark - er growth thy leaves are seen to veil from view the ro - bin's nest,

**B** **rall.**

29 **C** a little slower  $\text{♩} = 90$

I love to lie be - neath thy wav - ing screen,

I love to lie be - neath thy wav - ing screen,

I love to lie be - neath thy wav - ing screen,

I love to lie be - neath thy wav - ing screen,

**C**  $\text{♩} = 90$  *Tempo*

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34

I lie with limbs by sum - mer's heat and toil op - pressed;

I lie with limbs by sum - mer's heat and toil op - pressed;

I love to lie with limbs by sum - mer's heat and toil op - pressed;

I love to lie with limbs by sum - mer's heat and toil op - pressed;

**D** a little faster  
♩ = 100

41

*mp*

And round thee lies the smooth, un-trod-den

*mp*

And round thee lies the smooth

*mp*

And when the au-tumn winds have stript thee bare, and round lies smooth

*mp*

And when the aut-umn winds have stript thee bare, and round lies smooth

**D** a little faster  
♩ = 100

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49

**E** *rallentando*

snow, when naught is thine that made thee once so fair,

snow, when naught is thine that made thee once so fair,

snow, when naught is thine that made thee once so fair,

snow, when naught is thine that made thee once so fair,

**E** *rallentando*

56 *a tempo* *mf* *mp* *p*

I love to watch thy sha - dow - y form be - low,  
I love to watch thy sha - dow - y form be - low, and  
I love to watch thy sha - dow - y form be - low, thy sha - dow be - low,  
I love to watch thy sha - dow - y form be - low, and

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63 **F** *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *mf*

Through through thy leave - less arms to  
through, through thy leave - less arms to  
Through, through thy leave - less arms to  
through, I love to look, I love to

**F**

68

look a - bove on stars that bright - er beam when

look a - bove on stars that bright - er beam when

look a - bove on stars that bright - er beam when

look a - bove on stars that bright - er beam when

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73

most we need their love.

most we need their love.

most we need their love.

most we need their love.