

The Passing of the Year

Jonathan Dove (b.1959)

Invocation (*William Blake*)

The narrow bud opens her beauties to the sun (*William Blake*)

Answer July (*Emily Dickinson*)

Hot sun, cool fire (*George Peele*)

Ah, sun-flower! (*William Blake*)

Adieu! Farewell earth's bliss! (*Thomas Nashe*)

Ring out wild bells (*Alfred Lord Tennyson*)

Jonathan Dove has established a considerable reputation as a composer of choral and theatre music. One of his recent commissions was to provide incidental music for the National Theatre's production of *His Dark Materials*, based on the novels by Philip Pullman. *The Passing of the Year*, a song cycle for double chorus and piano, was commissioned by the London Symphony Chorus and first performed in 2000. Its seven movements depict various aspects of the turning of the seasons. Jonathan Dove's music is characterized by its pulsing, dance-like rhythms, complex overlay of different textual figurations and chord-clusters built over a relatively static harmonic base. These techniques have their roots in the American minimalist school, typified by the works of John Adams, Philip Glass and others, but are very freely adapted by Dove, resulting in a highly individual and appealing musical style.

programme notes by John Bawden

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