

JAMES SELLARS
THOMAS MEYER

Chris's Hymn

from 'The Turing Opera'

piano/vocal score

HOG RIVER MUSIC
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

CHRIS'S HYMN

from THE TURING OPERA

Words by Thomas Meyer

Music by James Sellars

Blessèd life, your unsolvable problem
troubles him no more

We sleep through the starless night while the cold
Shadow of thine unseen hand awakes him
And gone is our love's shining face
Blessèd shepherd, keep him safe.

Splendid life, your unsolvable problem
troubles him no more

Morning clouds his sparkling eyes and these skies
Shadows of thine unseen hand reclaim him
And gone is our love's shining face
Watchful shepherd, cool his brow.

Holy life, your unsolvable problem
troubles him no more

Lost to us, his gentle heart, now the dark
Shadows of thine unseen hand embrace him
And gone is our love's shining face
Tender shepherd, care for him.

ALAN TURING lived through what must be one of the most extraordinary series of personal events in this century. He provided the theoretical basis for what we know today as the programmable computer. He played a crucial role in deciphering a code considered so 'uncrackable' that never during World War II did the Axis ever suspect it had been broken; without Turing's participation the course of and outcome of the War would certainly have been disastrous for Great Britain. He was tried and found guilty of a crime that no longer exists in England — physical relations with a member of the same sex; and underwent a personally brutal, humiliating, and completely ineffectual course of hormone therapy. He was found dead having ingested a bite of apple laced with cyanide, age 42.

CHRIS (Christopher) Morcom was Alan's closest and perhaps only friend at Sherborne School where they met when Alan was 15 and Chris 16. Their devotion to each other evolved from a shared passion for the physical world, its measurement, its investigation. A bond which was broken in the cold, early hours of the 6th of February, 1930 when Chris was suddenly rushed off to hospital where he was to lay half conscious, in extreme pain for almost a week. He died on the 13th of February.

In the opera, CHRIS'S HYMN is sung in the school chapel the following morning. An announcement of Christopher Morcom's death on that occasion is the first news Alan has of the loss. This attraction, its presence and absence will become the emotional and professional touchstone of an extreme and remarkable life, the subject of THE TURING OPERA.

CHRIS'S HYMN

from 'The Turing Opera'
for Tom

Music by James Sellars
Text by Thomas Meyer

Children's Choir

Piano

Slowly

Bless-èd life, your un-solv-ab-le prob-lem Troub-les him no more. We sleep through the

star-less night while the cold Sha-dow of thine un- seen hand a - wakes him And gone is our love's shin-ing

6

face. Bless-èd shep-herd, keep him safe. Splen-did life, your un-solv-ab-le prob-lem Troub-les him no

11

more. Morn-ing clouds his sparkl-ing eyes and these skies, Sha-dows of thine un- seen hand re -

16

claim him And gone is our love's shin-ing face Watch-ful shep-herd, cool his brow. Ho-ly life,

21

This system contains measures 21 through 25. It features a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "claim him And gone is our love's shin-ing face Watch-ful shep-herd, cool his brow. Ho-ly life,". The piano accompaniment is in the same key and time, with a treble and bass clef. The piano part includes chords and moving lines in both hands.

your un-solv-ab-le prob-lem Troub-les him no more. Lost to us, his gent-le heart, now the

26

This system contains measures 26 through 30. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "your un-solv-ab-le prob-lem Troub-les him no more. Lost to us, his gent-le heart, now the". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines in both hands.

dark Sha-dows of thine un-seen hand em-brace him And gone is our love's shin-ing face. Ten-der shep-herd,

31

This system contains measures 31 through 35. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "dark Sha-dows of thine un-seen hand em-brace him And gone is our love's shin-ing face. Ten-der shep-herd,". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines in both hands.

care for him. Bless-ed life, your un-solv-ab-le prob-lem troub-les him no more.

36

This system contains measures 36 through 40. The vocal line concludes with the lyrics: "care for him. Bless-ed life, your un-solv-ab-le prob-lem troub-les him no more." The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines in both hands.