

Anthony Hodson

For John Kimbell, who proposed the poem

The dove descending

From 'Little Gidding'

by T. S. Eliot

We die with the dying:
See, they depart, and we go with them.
We are born with the dead:
See, they return, and bring us with them.

The dove descending breaks the air
With flame of incandescent terror
Of which the tongues declare
The one discharge from sin and error.
The only hope, or else despair
Lies in the choice of pyre of pyre—
To be redeemed from fire by fire.

Who then devised the torment? Love.
Love is the unfamiliar Name
Behind the hands that wove
The intolerable shirt of flame
Which human power cannot remove.
We only live, only suspire
Consumed by either fire or fire.

With the drawing of this Love, and the voice of this Calling
We shall not cease from exploration
and the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.
And all shall be well and
All manner of thing shall be well.

In the crowned knot of fire
The fire and the rose are one.

For John Kimbell, who proposed the poem

The dove descending

T. S. Eliot (1888-1965)

From 'Little Gidding'

Anthony Hodson 2015

Andante espressivo ♩=56

Mezzo-soprano

Piano

p *8^{vb}*

f *p*

p *mp* *mf*

We die with the dy-ing: See, they de - part, and we go with them. We are

mf

born with the dead: See, they re - turn, and bring us with them.

pp

molto rit.

mf

33 **Allegretto** ♩=72 *mf*

The dove desc - end - ing breaks the air With flame of in - cand e - scent ter - ror

Allegretto ♩=72 *p*

38 *p*

Of which the tongues, the tongues de - clare The one discharge from sin and er - ror. The on ly

44 *f* *mf*

hope, or else des - pair Lies in the choice of pyre or pyre - To be re deem'd from fire by fire.

mp

50 *mp* *f*

Who then de - vised the tor - ment? Love. Love

Con pedale

55 *mp*

_____ is the un - fam - il - iar Name Be - hind the hands, the hands that

59 *mf* *p*

wove The in - tol - er - ab - le shirt _____ of flame Which hu - man

63

power can - not re - move. We on - ly live, on - ly sus -

66 *rit.*

pire _____ Con - sum'd _____ by fire _____ or fire.

70 - Tempo primo ♩=56

- Tempo primo ♩=56

p

8^{va}

77 *mf*

With the draw-ing of this Love, and the voice of this Cal ling_We shall not

83 *sf* *mf* *p*

cease from ex-plor - a-tion And the end of_ all_our explor-ing Will be to ar-rive

p

Piu lento ♩=50
Ad lib. **poco rall.**

89 *f*

where_ we start - ed And know the place for the first

Piu lento ♩=50 **poco rall.**

f

mp

93 **Tempo primo** ♩=56

time.

Tempo primo ♩=56

p

99

p

And all shall be well

p

104 *mf* *f*

and All man-ner of thing shall be well— In the crow-ned knot of fire The

mf

110 **Piu lento quasi echo** ♩=50 **rall.**

p

fire and the rose are one, The fire and the rose are one.

Piu lento quasi echo ♩=50 **rall.**

pp