



# Perle

For SATB

Neil Tòmas Smith

*The Hoard*, of which *Perle* is part, was developed for Thame Chamber Choir as part of the Adopt a Composer Scheme (2015-16), funded by the PRS for Music Foundation and the Philip and Dorothy Green Music Trust, and run by Making Music, in partnership with Sound and Music and BBC Radio 3.

## **Programme Note**

*Perle* is a partial setting of a Middle English text by an unknown author (usually known as the 'Perle Poet'). The poem is a lament for the loss of a woman dear to the narrator – a pearl who has slipped into earth. It is set in its original language rather than in translation to give the greatest possible sense of its history and to present the strangeness of the past to a contemporary audience.

This piece was originally the conclusion to my work *The Hoard*, based on the discovery of the Thame Hoard by a local lorry driver in 1940. It is a medieval hoard made up of various precious rings and coins, the latest of which can be dated to 1457 – making that the earliest date at which the hoard could have been hidden or lost. It is now housed at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. The *Perle* text was the perfect presentation of the themes of loss and history that I was looking to explore in that piece.

While writing *Perle* I was very lucky to receive guidance from many academics and musicians, all of whom contributed to the project in different ways. I would like to thank in particular my mentor Colin Riley for his support, Dr Hollie Morgan for her help with the *Perle* text, and conductor Duncan Aspden for his hard work and fine musicianship. Finally, I would like to thank the members of Thame Chamber Choir with whom it was such a pleasure to collaborate on this piece.

# Perle

Stately but flowing  $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 60$

Neil Tõmas Smith

Soprano *p*  
Per - le plea-saun - te to prin - ces pay - e To clan - ly clos in gold' so

Alto *p*  
Per - le plea-saun - te to prin - ces pay - e To clan - ly clos in gold' so

Tenor *p*  
Per - le plea-saun - te to prin - ces pay - e To clan - ly clos in gold' so

Bass *p*  
Per - le Per - le

5

S. *pp*  
cle - re Per - le so round' in such' ar - ray - e, So

A. *pp*  
cle - re Per - le so, so re - ken in such' ar - ray - e, So

T. *pp*  
cle - re Per - le so, so re - ken in such' ar - ray - e, So

B. *p*  
Per - le ar - ray - e, Per -

9

S. *p* *mfp*  
smal, so smoth' her sy - des wer - e hum

A. *p* *mfp*  
smal, so smoth' her sy - des wer - e hum

T. *p* *mfp*  
smal, wer - e hum

B. *mp* *p*  
le Ne prov - ed I ne - ver her pre - cios per - e

A

12

S. *mp*  
Per - le Per - le I sett' hyr seng' ley in syn - glur - e Per - le

A. *mp*  
Per - le Per - le I sett' hyr seng' ley in syn - glur - e Per - le Per - le

T. *mp*  
Per - le Per - le Per - le Per - le

B. *mp*  
Per - le Per - le Per - le Per - le

15

S. *f*  
Thurgh gress' hit fro me yot

A. *f*  
Thurgh gress' hit fro me yot

T. *mf* *f*  
I lest' hyr in on er - ber - e to groun - de hit fro me yot

B. *mf* *f*  
I lest' hyr in on er - ber - e to groun - de hit fro me yot

18

S. *mp* *rit.* *f*  
I dew - nye for - dol - ked, for - dol - ked of luf - daun - ge - re.

A. *mp* *f*  
I dew - nye for - dol - ked, for - dol - ked of luf - daun - ge - re.

T. *mp* *f*  
I dew - nye for - dol - ked, for - dol - ked of luf - daun - ge - re.

B. *mp* *f*  
I dew - nye for - dol - ked for - dol - ked of luf - daun ger re.

**B**

**A Tempo** *p* *pp* **poco allegro** *mf* hum

S. Per - le. le.

A. Per - le, per - le Of that pry - vy perl' with - out - en

T. Perl' hum *mf*

B. Per - le, per - le. Of that pry - vy perl' with - out - en

**Tempo Primo**

26 solo *p*

S. oft have I way - ted wysch - an - de oft have I way ted oft have I way ted

A. spot.

T. spot.

B. spot.

**C**

31 tutti *mp* *mf* *mp*

S. Per - le That spot of spy - ses mot ne - des spre - de Ther such ry - ches, such

A. *mp* *mf* *mp*

T. *mp* *mf* *mp*

B. *mp* *mf* *mp*

Per - le That spot of spy - ses mot ne - des spre - de Ther such ry - ches, such

35

S. *mf* *p*  
ry - ches to rot

A. *mf* *p*  
ry - ches to rot, rot is run - ne.

T. *mf* *mf* *p*  
ry - ches rot is run - - ne.

B. *mf* *mf* *p*  
ry - ches to rot is run - - - - ne

39 **D** The Flower Garden

S. *p*  
blay-ke, bl-we, blay ke, bl-we, blay-ke, bl-we,

A. *p*  
blay-ke, bl-we, blay ke, bl-we, blay-ke, bl-we,

T. *pp*  
gi - lo - fre

B. *pp*  
gi - lo - fre

45

S. *mp* *p*  
bl-we, re-de, blay-ke, bl-we, blay-ke, bl-we,

A. *mp* *p*  
bl-we, re-de blay-ke, bl-we, blay-ke, bl-we,

T. *p* *p*  
Gyn - gu - re, gyn gu - re,

B. *pp*  
gi - lo - fre,

51

S. *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*  
 re - de, blay-ke, blo - mes, blo - mes, blay-ke,

A. *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*  
 re - de, blay-ke, bl - we, re - de. Blo - mes,

T. *p* *mp*  
 gro - my - lyoun, gyn - gu - re,

B. *p* *p*  
 gro - my - lyoun, gi - lo - fre,

56

S. *mf* *mp* *mf*  
 and py-o-nys pow-dered ay by - twe-ne. Blo - mes blay-ke,

A. *mf* *mp* *mf*  
 blay-ke, pow - dered ay by - twe-ne Blo - mes blay-ke

T. *mp* *mf* *mp*  
 gro - my - ly - oun, gyn - gu - re, gyn - gu -

B. *mp* *mp*  
 gro - my - ly - oun, gi - lo - fre, gi -

61

S. *mf* *f* *f*  
 pow - dered ay by - twe-ne. On huyle ther perl - e hit tren-deled doun,

A. *mf* *f* *mf* *f*  
 pow - dered ay by - twe-ne. On huyle perl - e hit tren-deled doun,

T. *mf* *f* *f*  
 re, gro - my - ly - oun, On huyle hit tren-deled doun,

B. *mf* *mf* *f*  
 lo - fre, gro - my - ly - oun, gi - lo - fre, hit tren - deled doun, Ther hit droun

**E**

66 *p* *mp* *mf* hum

S. bl - we, blay - ke, re - de

A. bl - we, blay - ke, re - de, hum

T. bl - we, blay - ke, re - de, blay - ke, bl - we,

B. drof in mol - des dun - ne, in mol - des dun - ne blay - ke, bl - we,

**F** poco allegro

71 hum *mf*

S. hum

A. *f* Of that pry - vy

T. re - de, hum *mf*

B. re - de, in mol - des dunn' *p* *f* Of that pry - vy

**Tempo Primo**

75 *f* *mf*

S. I fell' up - on that flou - ry flagt Such' o - dour to my her - nes

A. *fp* perl' with - out - en spot. fell' o -

T. *fp* fell' o -

B. *fp* perl' with - out - en spot. fell' o -



rit. . . . .

79

S. schot, I, I slo-de up-on a sle-pyng slaght' On that pre- cios per- le\_

A. *mf* dour sle - pyng, *mf* pre - cios, *f* On that pre cios

T. *mf* dour sle - pyng, *mf* pre - cios, *f*

B. *mf* dour sle - pyng, *mf* pre - cios, *f* On that

**G** A Tempo

84

S. *p* , *p* solo oft have I way-ted wysch - an - de oft have I way ted

A. *p* , solo *p* perl' oft have I way-ted wysch-an - de

T. *p* ,

B. *p* , pre cios perl' \_\_\_\_\_

88

S. oft have I way-ted wysch - an - de wysch-an - de wysch-an-de wysch-an-de

A. oft have I way-ted, wysch - an - de, oft have I way-ted wysch - an-de, On\_

T.

B.

poco allegro rit.

92

S. hum *p* *fp* *f* hum *p*  
perl - e

A. *mf* *fp* *tutti* *f* hum *p*  
— that pry - vy perl - e

T. hum *p* *fp* *f* hum *p*  
perl - e

B. *fp* *f* *p*  
perl - e with - out - en spot.