

Alleluia

Randall Thompson (1899 - 1984)

Though his work is unfamiliar in Britain, the composer and teacher Randall Thompson wrote a substantial amount of music, including 3 symphonies, a Requiem, an opera and many choral pieces. He held a succession of distinguished academic posts at Berkeley, Virginia, Princeton and Harvard Universities.

This short piece, written in 1940 at the request of Serge Koussevitsky, was originally intended as a warming-up exercise for the students at the Berkshire Music Center, hence the repetition of the word *Alleluia*. It proved to be such an attractive piece that it rapidly found its way into the regular choral repertoire.

programme notes by John Bawden

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