

# “Now Welcome Summer” op 19c

For soprano and piano

**Alun Grafton**



### **Composer's note**

This setting of the words of Geoffrey Chaucer was first composed in 1988 for the choir of Eagle House School who gave the first performance in July 1989. It was scored for SATB choir and piano and lasts three minutes. In 2000 this arrangement for soprano and piano was made and first performed by Jane Sheriff and Christopher Seed later in that year. The original version was highly commended in the 2008 Vaughan Williams Memorial Competition run by Harrogate Vocalis.

### **About the Composer**

Born in 1961, Alun is a composer, pianist and experienced singer. Early lessons in singing and piano were followed by five years as a chorister at Rochester Cathedral. Further study at the King's School Rochester was followed by three years at Nottingham University studying Latin and Archaeology with private music lessons continuing with Brenda May. Just less than three years were then spent working at the Tate Gallery in London followed by a further year of teacher training back in Nottingham University. The next 30 years were spent teaching at Eagle House Wellington College before he took early retirement to concentrate on the composing.

Alun has sung in choirs ranging from symphonic choruses to chamber choirs throughout his life, first as a treble, then a countertenor followed by tenor. In addition he has been known to take up the conductor's baton when required to conduct a choir or orchestra and not only in his own works.

From the age of 14 onwards Alun has composed music of every genre except stage works. Whether it be for professionals, amateurs, children or friends he has written accessible but challenging works pushing the boundaries of modern tonalism as far as possible, not being afraid to use all the contemporary techniques available to today's composers. Over the years his composing style has subtly changed but the influence of composers such as Shostakovich, Prokofiev, Tippett and Hoddinott is easily identified.

For further details and full information about the composer please visit the website

[www.alungrafton.org](http://www.alungrafton.org)

# "Now Welcome Summer" op 19c

Words: Geoffrey Chaucer  
Duration: Three minutes

Music: Alun Grafton

The musical score is written for Soprano (S) and Piano (pno) in 6/8 time, marked *Moderato*. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into four systems, each starting with a double bar line (//).  
System 1 (Measures 1-4): Soprano begins with a rest, then sings "Now wel - come sum - mer with thy". The piano accompaniment starts with a *mf* dynamic, featuring a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.  
System 2 (Measures 5-8): Soprano sings "sun - ne soft, \_\_\_\_\_ That has this". The piano accompaniment continues with a *p* dynamic in the first two measures, then returns to *mf*.  
System 3 (Measures 9-12): Soprano sings "win - ter's wea - ther o - ver thrown, \_\_\_\_\_". The piano accompaniment features a *f* dynamic in the first two measures, then a *sub p* dynamic in the last two measures.  
System 4 (Measures 13-16): Soprano sings "and driven a - way the long nights black! \_\_\_\_\_". The piano accompaniment continues with a *p* dynamic throughout.

17

Soprano

Piano

*mf* *f*

//

21

S

*f*

Saint Val - en - tine thou art full high on loft, \_\_\_\_\_

pno

*p* *mf*

//

25

S

*p* *f*

Thus sing small birds \_\_\_\_\_ for thy sake, \_\_\_\_\_

pno

*p* *f*

//

29

S

*f*

Now wel - come sum - mer with thy sun - ne soft, \_\_\_\_\_

pno

*mf* *f*

33

Soprano

*f*

That has this win - ter's wea - ther

Piano

*mf* *f* *f*

//

37

S

*mf*

o - ver thrown,

pno

*mf* *f*

//

41

S

*p*

well have they cause for to glad - den oft, since each of

pno

*p* *p*

//

45

S

*p*

them re - cover - ed hath his mate, Full bliss - ful

pno

*p*