

# **“Masters in this hall” op 26**

For two voices and organ

**Alun Grafton**



### **Composer's note**

In 1990 the composer asked a colleague, Jonathan Hall, at Eagle House School, to write words using William Morris' carol "Masters in this hall" as a starting point for their own school's Advent Carol service. Jonathan kept the same structure of the poem and used some of Morris's phrase in his own short poem which was focusing more on Advent as the theme. The finished work was first performed by the school choir in the Royal Military Chapel, Sandhurst, in December 1990.

### **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 the odd 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)

# Masters in this hall op 26

A carol for Advent

words: Jonathan Hall

music: arranged by Alun Grafton

duration: 2 minutes

1 **Allegro Moderato**

Voices

Organ **Allegro Moderato**  
*f*

//

6 *f*

Mas - ters in this

//

10 *mf*

hall, \_\_\_\_\_ Hear ye news to - day, \_\_\_\_\_ Tid - ings for you

//

14 *p*

all, \_\_\_\_\_ Bring we on our way, \_\_\_\_\_ Now - ell Now - ell

18

Voices

*pp* *mf*

Now - ell, Now - - ell sing we clear, help - pen are all folk on

Organ

*pp* *mf*

//

22

*f* *f*

earth, — Now is come God's son so dear, — Now - ell Now - ell

*f* *f*

//

26

*mf*

Now - ell, Now - ell sing we loud, Hum - ble folk will greet the

*mf*

//

30

*f* *f* *mf*

birth, — down in shame will fall the proud, —

*f* *mf*

34

Voices

Organ

*mf*

//

39

*f*

We must now re - pent,

*f*

43

*p*

Turn a - way from sin,

*f*

Christ the Lord is sent to

*p*

*f*

47

*p*

let sal - va - tion in,

*p*

Now - ell Now - ell Now - ell,

*p*