Janet Graham

Churchyard Blackbird at Pentecost

This piece was written in May-June 2020 during the COVID-19 lockdown, when many of us were becoming more aware of the sights and sounds of nature around us. In particular I was intrigued by our local blackbirds, each of which seemed to have a song of its own. The song I heard one evening in our village churchyard was particularly striking in its melody and rhythm, and I notated it when I got home.

The blackbird's song, however, does not enter the piece in full until bar 27, after a slow introduction leading to the Gregorian chant Veni Creator Spiritus. Part of the chant appears again at the end, where it is intertwined with the Blackbird's song.

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