

JOHN HAWKINS

# *Strange Bridge*

Three Poems of Edward Thomas

*The Bridge*  
*Will You Come?*  
*For These*

First performed by John Lofthouse on 5th March 2022 at Steep church

duration *c.* 7 mins

[www.johnhawkinsmusic.co.uk](http://www.johnhawkinsmusic.co.uk)

• **Other settings by John Hawkins of poems by Edward Thomas**

**'The Unknown Bird'** (voice with flute, viola and harp, *c.* 10 mins) consists of three settings ('Like the Touch of Rain', 'Out in the Dark' and 'The Unknown Bird'). It was first performed in 1980 and published by Comus Edition.

The cycle was also performed by baritone John Lofthouse in Steep church near Thomas's home in March 2022 with the Aurora Trio.

**'For These'** (SATB choir, *c.* 5 mins)

Commissioned and often performed by the Manchester choir Alteri, this setting interweaves the words of the Te Deum with 'For These' by Edward Thomas.

• **Other works for solo voice by John Hawkins:**

**Before and After** (baritone and piano *c.* 7 mins)

Two poems by Isaac Rosenberg, poet and artist, killed in WWI: 'My Days' (written before the war) and 'Dead Man's Dump' written from experience in 1917.

**The Dong with a Luminous Nose** (baritone and solo clarinet, *c.* 15 mins)

A dramatic, poignant, and ultimately tragic, setting of the Edward Lear poem.

Recorded with Steve Dummer, clarinet and Aidan Smith, baritone, on Claudio Records CC6045-2.

*'... as I listened I realised for the first time that Lear's words are far from nonsensical if treated as a serious tale of loneliness and loss.'* – MUSIC WEB INTERNATIONAL 2020

**Portions of Eternity** (mezzo soprano and piano, *c.* 7 mins)

Three poems by William Blake

'The Bard', 'Thel' and 'Rintra Roars'

**Friulian Songs** (mezzo soprano and piano, *c.* 5 mins)

Two songs in the lovely Friulian language (closely related to Italian) which makes for delightful, bitter-sweet lyrics.

**Envoi** (high voice and string orchestra, *c.* 12 mins)

Poems about death, but ending in calm, by four Elizabethan poets

– Quarles, Tichborne, Southwell and Shakespeare.

**Voices from the Sea** (tenor with string orchestra, *c.* 18 mins)

words by working merchant seamen.

First performed by Martyn Hill with the Divertimenti string orchestra at St John Smith Square and recorded on Meridian CDE 84496. Published by Comus Edition.

*'... a stunning song cycle'* – **THE STRAD 2003**

# The Bridge

EDWARD THOMAS March 1915

JOHN HAWKINS 2021

Baritone Solo

Andante ♩. = 52

*p* *heavily*

I have come a long way to

Piano

Andante ♩. = 52

*p*

*p*

6

day: On a strange bridge a - lone

*p*

*p poco pesante*

Ped. Ped.

10

re-mem-ber-ing friends, old friends I

*Ped. Ped. sim.*

14

rest with-out smile or moan as they re-mem-ber me with-out smile or

*Ped.* *Ped.* *sim.*

19

moan. All are be - hind, the kind and the un - kind

*pp*

*Ped.* *sim.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

23

too, No more to - night than in a dream.

*crescendo*

*Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

26 *p*

The stream runs soft - ly yet drowns the

28 *crescendo*

past, The dark - lit stream has

30 *f*

drowned the Fut - ure and the past.

32 **rall.** . . . . . **a tempo**

**rall.** . . . . . **a tempo calmo**

*p*

Ped.

No

37

**f**

tra-vell er has rest more blest than this mo-ment brief be - tween two lives when the

41

*p* **f**

night's first lights And shades hide what has ne-ver been, Things good-li-er, love-li-er,

45

dear - er than will be or have been.

*p*

48

*perdenosi*

*pp*

# Will you come?

EDWARD THOMAS March 1915

JOHN HAWKINS 2021

**1** **quickly**  
♩ = 100

Baritone Solo

*p*

Will you come?

Piano

**quickly**  
♩ = 100

*pp* *f* *pp*

Ped. \_\_\_\_\_

**4**

*mf*

Will you come? Will you

*f* *pp*

Ped. \_\_\_\_\_

**7**

ride So late At my side? O, will you

*f* *f* *p*

Ped. \_\_\_\_\_



11

come?

*pp*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

14

*p*

Will you come? Will you

senza ped. ma legato

Ped. Ped.

16

*crescendo*

come? If the night has a moon full and

*crescendo*

18

*f*

bright? O,

*p*

Ped.

21

Will \_\_\_\_\_ you come?

*p*

Ped. Ped.

24

Would you come? Would you

Ped.

26

come If the noon gave light, Not the

*crescendo*

Ped.

28 *f*  
#E

moon?

*f* *p*

Ped. *f*

31 *p* *p* *p* *crescendo poco a poco*

*p* *p* *p* *crescendo poco a poco*

Beau - ti-ful, would you come? Would you have come?

*misterioso* *crescendo poco a poco*

*misterioso* *crescendo poco a poco*

*p*

R.H. Ped. Ped. Ped.

37 *f*

*f*

Would you have come With-out scorn-ing had it been still\_ morn-ing

*f*

*f* *p*

8va 8va

Ped.

41

*f* *p*

Be - lov - ed Would you have come?

*pp*

Ped.

45

*mp* *mf*

If you come Haste and

*f* *pp* *f*

Ped.

48

*f*

come. Owls have cried; It grows

*pp* *pp*

Ped. Ped.

51

*mf*

dark to ride. Be - lov - - -

*f* *pp*

Ped.

54

- ed, Beau - ti - ful,

*Ped.* *Ped.* *Ped.*

57

*mp* *3*

come. \_\_\_\_\_

*f* *pp*

59

*p*

come.

*pp*

$\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$

# For These [Prayer]

EDWARD THOMAS July 1915\*

JOHN HAWKINS 2021

1 **Calmly** ♩ = 56

Baritone Solo

An a-cre of land be-tween the

Piano

*p*

*Red.* *sim*

\*Edward Thomas enlisted in the English army in July 1915 and was killed in 1917

6

shore and the hills, Up-on a ledge that shows my king-doms three

*Red.* *sim*

10

The love-ly vi - si-ble earth and sky and sea, where what the cur-lew needs not the far-mer

14

tills. A house that shall love me as I love

Ped.

17

it, Well-hedged, and hon-oured by a few ash trees\_ That lin-nets green-finch-es and

Ped.

20

gold-finch-es Shall of-ten vis-it and make love in and flit: A

*f* *p*

Ped.

24

gar - den I need ne-ver go be-yond, bro-ken but neat, whose sun-flow-ers ev-'ry

*legato*

27

one are fit to be the sign of the Ri-sing Sun: A

*f* *p*

**poco meno mosso**

30

spring, a brook's bend or at least a pond: For

*p*



34 *quasi recitativo* *cresc. poco a poco*

these I ask not, but, nei-ther too late Nor yet too ear-ly, for what men call con-tent, and

*cresc. poco a poco*

38

al - so that some-thing may be sent to be con - tent - ed with, I ask of

40 *f* *p*

Fate. I ask of Fate.

*f* *p* *pp*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

