

Nicholas Maw

One Foot in Eden Still, I Stand



MOTET FOR MIXED CHOIR
AND SOLOISTS

Words by Edwin Muir

FABER *ff* MUSIC

ONE FOOT IN EDEN

One foot in Eden still, I stand
And look across the other land.
The world's great day is growing late,
Yet strange these fields that we have planted
So long with crops of love and hate.
Time's handiworks by time are haunted,
And nothing now can separate
The corn and tares compactly grown.
The armorial weed in stillness bound
About the stalk; these are our own.
Evil and good stand thick around
In the fields of charity and sin
Where we shall lead our harvest in.

Yet still from Eden springs the root
As clean as on the starting day.
Time takes the foliage and the fruit
And burns the archetypal leaf
To shapes of terror and of grief
Scattered along the winter way.
But famished field and blackened tree
Bear flowers in Eden never known.
Blossoms of grief and charity
Bloom in these darkened fields alone.
What had Eden ever to say
Of hope and faith and pity and love
Until was buried all its day
And memory found its treasure trove?
Strange blessings never in Paradise
Fall from these beclouded skies.

EDWIN MUIR

One Foot in Eden Still, I Stand was commissioned by King's College,
Cambridge, to mark the five hundred and fiftieth anniversary
of the founding of the college: 1441-1991

The first performance was given by the Choir of King's College, Cambridge,
conducted by Stephen Cleobury, in King's College Chapel on 18 September 1990
It is recorded by the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, conducted by Stephen Cleobury,
on 'English Anthems' EMI CDC 7 54418 2

Duration: 7 minutes

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One Foot in Eden Still, I Stand

Motet for

Soprano, alto, tenor and bass soloists or semichorus
and mixed choir (S.S.A.A.T.T.B.B.)
with optional organ

Words by Edwin Muir
(1887-1959)

Nicholas Maw
(1990)

Andante moderato (♩=88)

SOPRANO
One foot in E-den still, I stand _____ The world's great day is

ALTO
One foot in E-den still, I stand _____ The world's great day is

TENOR
One foot in E-den still, I stand _____ The world's great day is

BASS
One foot in E-den still, I stand _____ The world's great day is

CHORUS

SOPRANO
And look a-cross the o-ther land. _____

ALTO
And look a-cross the o-ther land. _____

TENOR
And look a-cross the o-ther land. _____

BASS
And look a-cross the o-ther land. _____

ORGAN
Optional

SOLI or SEMICHORUS

7

S. grow - ing late, _____

A. grow - ing late, _____

T. grow - ing late, _____

B. grow - ing late, _____

CHORUS

S. *p* *cresc.* *f*
Yet strange these fields that we have plant - ed _____ So long with

A. *p* *cresc.* *f*
Yet strange these fields that we have _____ plant - ed _____ So long with

T. *p* *cresc.* *f*
Yet strange these fields that we have plant - ed _____ So long with

B. *p* *cresc.* *f*
Yet strange these fields that we have _____ plant - ed _____ So long with

Org. *p* *cresc.* *f*

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SOLI or SEMICHORUS

S. *f* So long with crops of love and hate, *dim.*

A. *f* So long with crops of love and hate, *dim.*

T. *f* So long with crops of love and hate, *dim.*

B. *f* So long with crops of love and *dim.*

CHORUS

S. crops of love and hate.

A. crops of love and hate.

T. crops of love and hate.

B. crops of love and hate.

Org.

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