

## **Come down, O Love Divine**

*Come down, O Love Divine* (1998), for double choir, has a curious history. It was commissioned by the Musicians Benevolent Fund for their annual St. Cecilia's Day service, a splendid event held (in rotation) in Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, or Westminster Cathedral, with their three choirs joining forces and musicians past and present gathered in a spirit of thanksgiving and celebration. As it turned out, the 1998 service was to be held in Westminster Abbey, which was then in the midst of some rather public unhappiness, the details of which were widely reported at the time. The choice of texts was probably influenced by this turmoil, in particular the invocation 'Veni, Sancte Spiritus'. This piece speaks with a different voice from any of John Rutter's other works.