Hail, gladdening Light

3rd-century Greek hymn translated by John Keble (1792–1866)

CHARLES WOOD (1866–1926)



This resplendent double-choir anthem, a cornerstone of the Anglican cathedral repertoire, is believed to have been written in 1912 at the suggestion of Wood's publisher but, probably because of the 1914-18 War, it was not published until 1919. Charles Wood, born in Ulster, was a chorister at Armagh Cathedral and remained steeped in church music all his life. After studies with Stanford at the Royal College of Music in London, in 1889 he was invited by him to teach harmony and counterpoint at Cambridge University, which became his home. In 1924 he succeeded Stanford as Professor of Music, but died two years later. Wood is remembered mainly for his choral music, which is conservative in idiom but always impeccably crafted and, at its best, imaginative and memorable, its romantic richness tempered by a perhaps slightly austere sensibility.

Source: first edition of 1919, collated with autograph ms. in the library of Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge (by courtesy of the Librarian). The organ part in the ms. has 'for rehearsal' crossed out and 'ad libitum' substituted, perhaps suggesting that Wood originally had no intention of possible organ accompaniment for this essentially *a cappella* piece.

 ${\small @\ Collegium\ Music\ Publications\ 2002.\ Exclusively\ licensed\ worldwide\ to\ Oxford\ University\ Press}$

Printed in Great Britain

