



Errollyn Wallen

When the Wet Wind Sings (2003)

40 Voices

Text: Various including Cicero, Ovid, Elizabeth I and Errollyn Wallen

Duration: 10 minutes

Published by Peters Edition (EP 7705)

Version for SATB in preparation

First performance: Greenwich and Docklands Festival, The Tallis Scholars, 9 July 2003

Commissioned by the Greenwich and Docklands Festival and dedicated to Anda and Bill Winters

When the Wet Wind Sings weaves together strands and fragments from the history of the Thames (including the history of the English slave trade) in a musical celebration and meditation on Greenwich and its sea faring heart across five centuries. Fresh possibilities in vocal writing are uncovered through the variegated handling of groups of voices, solo voices and tutti sections – thus exploiting the wealth of textural possibilities.

[The Concert] was notable for a magnificent account of the great 40-part Spem in Alium, but more especially for a gratifyingly elaborate companion piece for that famous motet,

*commissioned from Errollyn Wallen, a locally based composer who bridges popular and esoteric genres 'from avant garde classical to popular song' with enviable ease and eclectic musicianship. [...] Her 15 minute setting of overlapping text fragments past and recent, in Latin, English, Twi, Spanish & Portuguese, is a virtuoso challenge for the best chamber choirs. [...] It merits consideration for the Proms and would sound great in the Royal Albert Hall. **When the Wet Wind Sings** should have an enduring concert life and is sure to be recorded soon.*

Peter Grahame Woolf, *Musicalpointers*, July 2003

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