

# Song of Caedmon

for soprano and two doublebasses

Preview File Only

Sarah Rodgers

Impulse  
Edition

# Song of Caedmon

A setting of the Early English poem known as the  
Dream of the Rood attributed to Caedmon and Hilda of Whitby

Poco Misterioso ♩ = 80

Sarah Rodgers

Soprano

Double Bass 1

Double Bass 2

*p ben legato*

*p ben legato*

4

4

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8

*molto rall.* *a tempo*

*cristallo*

*cristallo*

13 **A**

*mp* Hear me! When night was dark and

3 3 *gliss.*

13 *l.h. pizz.*

13 *l.h. pizz.*

17 deep, And world - ly voi - ces still'd, I

3 *gliss.*

17 *gliss.*

17 *gliss.*

20 dream'd the dream of dreams. Hear me!

3

20

**B**

24

24 *mf* *corrente*

*arco*

*mf* *pizz.* *corrente*

28 *mf* I saw the Tree, Lift - ed up, Bath'd in light, Bright

28 *mp* *gliss.*

*mp*

32 beam of wood, Bold bea - con drench'd in gold; And

32

35 fie - ry gems its foot a - blaze While fur - ther flam - ing five, flar'd Where its

35

37 branch - es form'd a cross. Hear me! *f* An - gels in hea - ven - ly

37 *f ampio* *gliss.*

*f ampio*

41

host Held it for - e - ver won - drous in their gaze. 3

44

All saints, all mor - tal men and all cre - a - tion stood

44

*arco* *pizz.* *arco* *trem.*

*pizz.* *pizz.* *arco*

47

shin - ing fac'd in awe!

47

*trem.*

50 *molto rall.* *a tempo*

Mar - vel - lous, Tri - um - phant Tree! Here me! 3

50 3 3

53 D

*pizz.*  
*mp*

*pizz.*  
*mp*

55

*mf* I, all un - worth - y, fal - len short,

55 *arco*

*arco*

57

I saw the Tree of Glo - ry, Shin - - - ing,

*f*

57

59

stream - - - ing, gol - den gleam - ing,

59

61

Glit - ter - ing gems, a - bun - - - dant teem - ing, Ma -

63

jes - tic for its Ma - ker wrought.

E

63

*sfzp*

*sfzp*

67

*frizzante*

And yet, be - neath the ginc - ing gold, Some an - cient a - go - ny of

67

*sfzp*

*sfzp*

*sfzp*

*sfzp*

*sfzp*

*sfzp*

*sfzp*

70

old Forc'd drops of blood To sweat u - pon this Rood.

70

*sfzp*

*gliss.*

*sfzp*

74 F

Hear me! I trem-ble to see it gut-ter and flick-er, Daz-zle and dar-ken,

*p*

trem. sul ponticello  
*pp*

*p*

78

All drench'd and drip - ping, This time, in gold, that time, in blood.

*naturale*

81 *legato*

All ring - led, spil - ling. *mf* I

*mf*

*3*

84 G

lay there for an age, wrapp'd in sor-row At this vis - ion of the

*mp* *legato con amore*

*mp* *legato con amore*



87

Heal-er's Tree. Then through the griev-ing sil-ence, I heard it speak these words.

90

H *poco meno mosso*  
*speranzoso*

95

100

106 J *amabile*

Long years a - go, Still now I re - call The wood where I stood Proud,

*mf*

111

sky - strain - ing, tall. And the hands that laid hold, Chopp'd my

*f*

115 *cresc. poco a poco*

roots from my trunk, Fix'd my limbs in a cross, Shap'd a sym - bol of shame, Set me high on a hill

*f*

120

To kill and to maim, Their foes and their fel - ons To pun - ish and blame.

120

125 K

Then came the day when the

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

130

King of Hea - ven Came my way to climb up - on me.

130

133 *invadente cresc. poco a poco*

Ea - ger to make me his mount, I dare not count The cost to re - fuse him. Nor

133

137

break, nor bend a - side But let him ride To pay his ran -

137

141

som.

141 *ff*

*ff*

*ff*

146

L

146

Ground *mp* shud - der,

*p*

*p*

149

Earth shake, Rais'd Rood Stand firm, And

*mf* *f*

149

152

take The Lord of life in - to your arms.

152

*mp*

*f*

156 M *teneramente*

*mp* *espressivo*

*mp* *espressivo*

3 3

162 *teneramente*

*mp* They drove me through with nails: I bear the wounds.

166

They made me share his a - go - ny: I bear the wounds.

170

They shroud - ed us in shade: I bear the wounds.

174

They forc'd - his death up - on me: Christ on the Rood.

178

N

*mf*

*mf*

183

God yield-ed to man As they lift-ed him down.

*mp*

*mf*

188

I, blood - soak'd and shaft - wound - ed As they rais'd him

*mf*

*mf*

192

from the rack, *f* Stood, one of three, As they laid him

*f*

198 *poco rall.* *tempo libre* O *quasi recitativo*

in a tomb: Sun-set song, sad se-pul - chre.

*p*

204 *p* As Christ grew cold They

*pp*

*p*

209 *molto*

cut me down And dug me deep be - neath the

*pizz.*

215 P *a tempo*

ground. *f* But faith - ful friends who lov'd the

215 *f*

*f*

220 Lord De - nied the earth to keep me bound.

220

226

226

Q

231 *mf* So deck'd they me with trea - sure trove All gleam - ing gold and sil - ver

231 *mf*

*mf*



235 *cresc. poco a poco*

round. Aah - - - - - Aah-

240

Glo - - - - - ry

244

Tree!

**ff**

249 **R** *tempo primo*

*p sul tasto*

252

257 *poco rall.*

*pp* Hear me! I *mp*

*p*  
(naturale)

**S** *a tempo legato*

262 lay there for an age, rapt in won-der At this daz-zling vis-ion of the

*con amore*

*p con amore*  
(naturale)

265 *sempre cresc.*

Heal-er's Tree. Cheer-ful heart Spi-rit high Cour-age keen:

268

Rich Rood Heart's de - sire Hence for - ward hope Bright bles - sing

270

Bliss and joy

*ff*

272

Tri - umph - ant Tree Dream of

276

dreams. Hear me! Hear me! Hear me!

*mp* *p*

*p* *pp*

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