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Box

# Alan Bullard

MADRIGAL - BOOK

four settings of sixteenth-century  
texts, for unaccompanied choir

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## 1

The lowest trees have tops, the ant her gall,  
 The fly her spleen, the little sparks their heat;  
 The slender hairs cast shadows, though but small,  
 And bees have stings, although they be not great;  
 Seas have their source, and so have shallow springs;  
 And love is love, in beggars as in kings.

Where rivers smoothest run, deep are the fords;  
 The dial stris, yet none perceives it move;  
 The firmest faith is in the fewest words;  
 The turtles cannot sing, and yet they love:  
 True hearts have eyes and ears, no tongues to speak;  
 They hear and see, and sigh, and then they break.

Sir Edward Dyer 1602

## 2

Hot sun, cool fire, tempered with sweet air,  
 Black shade, fair nurse, shadow my white hair:  
 Shine, sun; burn, fire; breathe, air, and ease me;  
 Black shade, fair nurse, shroud me, and please me:  
 Shadow, my sweet nurse, keep me from burning,  
 Make not my glad cause cause of my mourning.

Let not my beauty's fire  
 In flame unstaid desire,  
 Nor pierce any bright eye  
 That wandereth lightly.

George Peele 1599

## 3

Fire, fire, fire, fire!

Lo here I burn in such desire  
That all the tears that I can strain  
out of mine idle empty brain

Cannot allay my scorching pain.  
Come Trent and Humber, and fair Thames,  
Dread Ocean, haste with all thy streams:  
And, if you cannot quench my fire,  
O drown both me and my desire.

Fire, fire, fire, fire!

There is no hell to my desire:  
See all the rivers backward fly,  
And th' Ocean doth his waves deny  
For fear my heat should drink them dry.  
Come, heavenly showers, then, pouring down;  
Come, you that once the world did drown;  
Some then you spared, but now save all,  
That else must burn, and with me fall.

Thomas Campion 1617

## 4

Come heavy sleep, the image of true death:  
And close up these my weary weeping eyes,  
Whose spring of tears doth stop my vital breath,  
And tears my heart with sorrow's high-swol'n cries:

Come and possess my tired thoughts—worn soul,  
That living dies, till thou on me be stole—  
Come shadow of my end: and skepe of rest,  
Alied to death, child to this black-faced night,  
Come thou and charm these rebels in my breast,  
Whose waking fancies doth my mind affright.

O come sweet sleep, come or I die for ever,  
Come ere my last sleep comes, or come never.

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ALAN BULLARD

1985

1

"The lowest trees ..."

Medium tempo (throughout)

Soprano *p* *espress.*  
 Alto *unis.*  
 Tenor *unis.*  
 Bass *p* *espress.*

The lowest trees have tops, the ant her

*mf*

gall, - The fly her spleen, the little sparks their

*mf*

S heat; The sten-der hairs cast shadows, though but

A heat; The sten-der hairs cast shadows, though

T heat; The sten-der hairs cast shadows, though but

B heat; The sten-der hairs cast shadows, though

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Small, And bees have stings, although they be not  
 but small, And bees have — stings, — though — they be not great; —  
 8 Small, And bees have stings, although they be not  
 but small And bees have — stings, — though — they be not great; —

great; Seas have their source, and so have  
 Seas have their source, and so have  
 8 great; Seas have their source, and so have  
 — Seas — have their source, and — so —

shal - low springs; And love is love in  
 shal - low springs; Love is love in  
 8 - have shal - low springs; - And love is love in  
 - have shal - low springs; - And love is love in

beg-gars as- in Kings. - Where rivers

beg-gars as- in Kings. - Where rivers

beg-gars as in Kings. - Where rivers

beg-gars as in Kings. - Where rivers

div. f

smooth - est run, deep are the fords;

smooth - est run, deep are the fords;

smooth - est run, deep are the fords;

smooth - est run, deep are the fords;

div. p

The di - al stirs, yet none per -

The di - al stirs, yet none per -

The di - al stirs, yet none per -

The di - al stirs, yet none per -

f

div

p

unis pp - cresc poco..

- ceives it move; The firmest faith is in the  
cresc poco..

- ceives it move; The firmest faith - cresc poco..

unis. pp - cresc poco..

8 - ceives it move; The firmest faith is in the  
cresc poco..

- ceives it move; The firmest - faith -

.. a poco

few - est words; The turtles cannot

.. a poco is in the few - est words; The turtles

.. a poco few - est words. The turtles cannot

.. a poco - is in the few - est words; The turtles -

moving on

mp mf

sing, and yet they love: True

cannot sing, and yet they love: True

8 sing, and yet they love: True

- cannot sing, and yet they love: True

moving on

held back

S  
 hearts, true — hearts have eyes and ears, — no  
 hearts, true hearts — have eyes and ears, — no

A  
 True — hearts, true hearts have eyes and ears — no (unis)  
 True — hearts, true hearts have eyes and ears, — no

T  
 hearts, true hearts — have eyes and ears, — no (unis)  
 hearts, true — hearts have eyes and ears, — no

B  
 True — hearts, true hearts have eyes and ears — no  
 True — hearts, true hearts have eyes and ears, — no

held back

S  
 tongues to speak; — They  
 tongues to speak; — They

A  
 tongues to speak; — They  
 tongues to speak; — They

T  
 tongues to speak; — They  
 tongues to speak; — They

B  
 tongues to speak; — They  
 tongues to speak; — They