

# The Flowers of the Forest

## *remembering Flodden Field*

composed by Sheena Phillips

for SATBarB voices a cappella

based on a poem by James Foullis written in July 1512, one year before the battle of Flodden, and on the ballad *The Flowers of the Forest*, written by Jean Elliot in 1756 to commemorate the battle and mourn its devastating impact on Scotland.

commissioned by the Dunedin Consort with subsidy from the Scottish Arts Council and first performed at the 2004 Whithorn Festival, September 2004

slightly revised for performances by Sang Scule in 2013, the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Flodden

perusal score

duration c. 6:00

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## Introductory note

The piece intersperses lines from Foullis' majestic Latin poem of praise for James IV and Scotland with fragments of the ballad *The Flowers of the Forest* and a Gaelic expression for "the blood of all men who have died on earth". At first we are in James' court, amid trumpets and bombast. The ballad tune appears as a sequence of happily lilted syllables and all seems well. Soon, though, the Gaelic phrase makes its entrance, foreshadowing the slaughter at Flodden. The singers keep returning to the confident Latin praises, but the line from the ballad "Dule and wae for the order sent our lads to the Border" becomes increasingly dominant. The Latin poem fragments, while the Gaelic phrase becomes more insistent. At the end, Foullis' poem has vanished entirely and all that remains are Scots ballad and Gaelic lament.

Foullis' glorious poem was written in 1512, one year before the fateful battle of Flodden at which James IV and thousands of his followers were killed by the English. This event greatly damaged Scotland. The court of James IV, a seat of great learning and culture, was lost; nearly every lowland family suffered personal loss; the country was left with an infant king and regent queen; and it was not long before English power made further marks on the course of Scottish history.

The ballad was written by Jean Elliot in 1756 to commemorate Flodden and mourn its impact.

The Gaelic expression is from the New Testament book of *Revelation* (18: 24) and alludes to the fall of the once-mighty Babylon.

## Thanks

I am indebted to Jamie Reid Baxter, translator of James Foullis' poem and scholar of many texts and languages, for his suggestion of combining Foullis' poem with the ballad 'Flowers of the Forest', and for finding a suitable Gaelic phrase to interweave with the Scots and the Latin.

My warm thanks, too, to David Sumner at the Swallow Theatre near Whithorn and to the Dunedin Consort's administrator Helen Acheson for their help in getting this project off the ground; to the Scottish Arts Council for their financial support; to Susan Hamilton and all in the Dunedin Consort, to Sang Scule and their director James Hutchinson for giving the piece another airing – and now (2019) also to Calum Robertson and the Edinburgh University Singers.

## Note on pronunciation of the Gaelic

'fuil nan uile dhaoine a mharbhadh air an talamh'

International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA): fu:l nən u:l̪ə y̥:ɲə\* v̪əɾəv̪əy̥ ɛr ən t̪aləv̪

\* but in bar 156: y̥:ɲi ə

## Notation

x noteheads should be whispered, spoken or shouted (as directed), not sung at pitch

## The Flowers of the Forest

- I      Scotorum terna nomen cum laude triumphā;  
(*Triumph with threefold praise, O name of Scots*)  
  
hu ri vi o hu etc. (Gaelic liltng syllables)
- II      Sit gens pro titulis nobilitata suis.  
(*May thy folk for their own merits honoured be!*)  
  
**I've heard them liltng at our yowe-milking**      [ewe-milking]
- III      Dura subit, verbis parca, sed alta cupit.  
(*They endure; few their words, yet they seek the heights*)  
  
fuil nan uile (*the blood of all*)  
  
**Dule and wae**      [grief and woe]
- IV      Duratura diu crescat sub sidere fausto Scotia, Cristicolis terra beata viris.  
(*Long may Scotland thrive, beneath a favouring star, And lasting be the blessings on this folk that worships Christ*)  
  
fuil air an talamh (*blood on the earth*)  
  
**Dule and wae for the order sent our lads to the Border!**
- V      O sua semper ames Jacobum Scotia quartum.  
(*O thou, his Scotland, shouldst ever love James the Fourth*)
- VI      Quo duce te celo fama secunda feret.  
(*By whose aid fair fame will carry thee to heaven!*)  
  
fuil air an talamh (*blood on the earth*)  
  
**But now they are moaning on ilka green loaning.**      [*ilka ~ each; loaning ~ track*]  
**The Flooers o' the Forest are a' wede away.**      [*wede away ~ taken away*]  
  
fuil nan uile dhaoine a mharbhadh air an talamh  
(*blood of all men who have died on earth*)  
  
**We'll hear nae mair liltng at the yowe-milking,  
Women and bairns are heartless and wae;  
Sighing and moaning on ilka green loaning:  
The Flooers o' the Forest are a' wede away.**

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Latin words from James Foullis' 'carmen elegium' (song in elegiac couplets) of July 1512.  
(*Translation of the Latin, by Jamie Reid Baxter, in italics*)

**Extracts from the ballad 'Flowers of the Forest' are presented in bold** [with glossary]

The Gaelic phrases (from the New Testament book *Revelation* 18:24) are presented in a serif face (with translation or explanation in brackets and in italics)

# The Flowers of the Forest

remembering Flodden Field

Sheena Phillips

$\text{♩} = 54$  **Maestoso, con moto**

*f quasi trombe*

S  
Sco - to - rum ter - na no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha tri - um - pha tri - um - pha

A  
Sco - to - rum ter - na no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha tri - um - pha tri - um - pha

T  
8  
Sco - to - rum ter - na no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha tri - um - pha tri - um - pha

Bar  
Sco - to - rum ter - na no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha tri - um - pha tri - um - pha

B  
Sco - to - rum ter - na no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha tri - um - pha

5

ter - na cum lau - de tri - um - pha cum lau - de tri - um - pha

ter - na cum lau - de tri - um - pha cum lau - de tri - um - pha

8  
ter - na cum lau - de tri - um - pha cum lau - de tri - um - pha *mp legato* Sco - to - rum ter - na

ter - na cum lau - de tri - um - pha cum lau - de tri - um - pha *mp legato* Sco - to - rum ter - na

ter - na cum lau - de tri - um - pha cum lau - de tri - um - pha *mp legato* Sco - to - rum ter - na

flowers of the forest 2

9

*mf dolce*

hu ri vi ho ro

*mf dolce*

hu ri vi ho ro hu ri vi ho ro

no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha Sco - to - rum ter - na no - men cum lau - de tri -

no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha Sco - to - rum ter - na no - men cum lau - de tri -

no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha Sco - to - rum ter - na no - men cum lau - de tri -

13

ri o hu ro hu ri o vi ho ro hu ri

ri o hu ri vi ho ro

um - pha Sco - to - rum ter - na no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha

um - pha Sco - to - rum ter - na no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha

um - pha Sco - to - rum ter - na no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha

17

o vi ho ro

*f maestoso*

Sit gens pro ti - tu - lis no - bi - li - ta - ta su - is.

*f maestoso*

Sit gens pro ti - tu - lis no - bi - li - ta - ta su - is.

*f maestoso*

Sit gens pro ti - tu - lis no - bi - li - ta - ta su - is.

*f maestoso*

Sit gens pro ti - tu - lis no - bi - li - ta - ta su - is.

21 **A**

hu ri vi

*mp dolce*

hu hu ri vi ho ro

*p legato*

ter - na cum lau - de Sco - to - rum no - men tri - um - pha ter - na cum lau - de

*mf cantabile*

hu ri o vi ho ro dule and wae ru

*p legato*

ter - na cum lau - de Sco - to - rum no - men tri - um - pha ter - na cum lau - de

25

ho ro hu ri o vi ho ro hu ri vi

hu hu ri vi ho ro hu

Sco - to - rum no - men tri - um - pha ter - na cum lau - de Sco - to - rum no - men

ter - na cum lau - de Sco - to - rum no - men tri -

Sco - to - rum no - men tri - um - pha ter - na cum lau - de Sco - to - rum no - men tri -

29

hu ri o vi ho ro hu ri vi ho ro

hu ri vi ho hu ri vi ho ro ri o hu ro

tri - um - pha ter - na cum lau - de Sco - to - rum no - men tri - um - pha

um - pha ter - na cum lau - de Sco - to - rum no - men tri - um - pha

um - pha ter - na cum lau - de Sco - to - rum no - men tri - um - pha

33

ri o hu ro Sco - ti - a  
hu ri vi ho ro  
ter - na cum lau - de Sco - to - rum no - men tri - um - pha Sco - ti - a su - bit  
ter - na cum lau - de Sco - to - rum no - men tri - um - pha Sco - ti - a su - bit  
ter - na cum lau - de Sco - to - rum no - men tri - um - pha Sco - ti - a su - bit

37 *f*

*f*  
du - ra, du - ra su - bit, du - ra, ver - - - bis  
du - ra, du - ra, du - ra su - bit, ver - - - bis  
du - ra, du - ra su - bit, ver - - - bis  
du - ra, du - ra, du - ra su - bit, ver - - - bis  
du - ra, du - ra, du - ra, ver - - - bis



41

par - ca, sed al - ta, al - ta, al - - - ta cu - pit.

par - ca, sed al - ta, al - ta, al - - - ta cu - pit.

par - ca, sed al - ta, al - ta, al - - - ta cu - pit.

par - ca, sed al - ta, al - ta, al - - - ta cu - pit.

**B**

46 *poco f*

*poco f*

Sco - to - rum ter - na no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha tri - um - pha tri - um - pha

*poco f*

Sco - to - rum ter - na no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha tri - um - pha tri - um - pha

*poco f*

Sco - to - rum ter - na no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha tri - um - pha tri - um - pha

*poco f*

Sco - to - rum ter - na no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha tri - um - pha tri - um - pha

50

no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha cum lau - de tri - um - pha

no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha cum lau - de tri - um - pha

no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha cum lau - de tri - um - pha Sco - to - rum no - men

no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha cum lau - de tri - um - pha Sco - to - rum no - men

no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha cum lau - de tri - um - pha Sco - to - rum no - men

54

*mp poco triste*

hu ri vi ho ro ri o hu ro

*mp poco triste*  
fuil fuil,

ter - na cum lau - de tri - um - pha Sco - to - rum no - men ter - na cum lau - de tri -

ter - na cum lau - de tri - um - pha Sco - to - rum no - men ter - na cum lau - de tri -

ter - na cum lau - de tri - um - pha Sco - to - rum no - men ter - na cum lau - de tri -

58

hu ri vi ho ro hu ri vi ho ro ru o

fuil nan ui - le

um - pha Sco - to - rum no - men ter - na cum lau - de tri - um - pha

um - pha Sco - to - rum no - men ter - na cum lau - de tri - um - pha

um - pha Sco - to - rum no - men ter - na cum lau - de tri - um - pha

62 **C**

Sco - ti - a su - bit

dule and wae

Sco - ti - a Sco - to - rum no - men Sco - ti - a du - ra su - bit,

dule and wae Sco - ti - a su - bit

dule dule dule and wae Sco - ti - a su - bit

66 *mf* , , *cresc.* *f*

du - ra, du - ra, Du - ra - tu - ra di - u cres - cat sub

*mf* , , *cresc.* *f*

du - ra, du - ra, Du - ra - tu - ra di - u cres - cat sub

*mf* , , *cresc.* *f*

du - ra, du - ra, Du - ra - tu - ra di - u cres - cat sub

*mf* , , *cresc.* *f*

du - ra, du - ra, Du - ra - tu - ra di - u cres - cat sub

*mf* , , *cresc.* *f*

du - ra, du - ra, Du - ra - tu - ra di - u cres - cat sub

71

si - de - re fau - sto Sco - ti - a

si - de - re fau - sto Sco - ti - a *mp triste* fuil air an tal - amh,

si - de - re fau - sto Sco - ti - a *mp dolce* Cri - sti - co - lis ter - ra be - a - ta vi - ris

si - de - re fau - sto Sco - ti - a *mp dolce* Cri - sti - co - lis ter - ra be - a - ta vi - ris

si - de - re fau - sto Sco - ti - a *mp dolce* Cri - sti - co - lis ter - ra be - a - ta vi - ris

D

75

*mf pesante*

fuil, fuil air an tal - amh, fuil,

*subito mf risoluto*

Cri - sti - co - lis ter - ra be - a - ta vi - ris Tri - um - pha Sco - to - rum no - men

*mf pesante*

Cri - sti - co - lis ter - ra be - a - ta vi - ris dule dule

*mf pesante*

Cri - sti - co - lis ter - ra be - a - ta vi - ris dule dule

80

fuil air an tal - amh, fuil air an tal - amh,

ter - na cum lau - de Sco - to - rum no - men

dule and wae dule and wae dule and wae dule and wae

*f*

dule and wae dule and wae for the ord - er sent our lads to the bord - er

84 *mf*

O, O su - a, O su - a sem - per a - mes, a - mes, a - mes,

*mf*

O, O su - a sem - per a - mes, a - mes

*mf*

O, O su - a sem - per a - mes, a - mes

*mf*

O, O su - a sem - per a - mes, a - mes

90 **E** *mf marcato*

a - mes Ja - co - bum Sco - ti - a quar - tum

*mp triste*

dule and

Ja - co - bum Sco - ti - a quar - tum

ful air an

*mp persistente*

dule and wae

*mp persistente*

dule and wae

Ja - co - bum Sco - ti - a quar - tum

dule and wae dule and

Ja - co - bum Sco - ti - a quar - tum

94

*cresc.*

wae for the ord-er sent our lads to the bord - er dule and wae dule and

tal - amh, fuil air an tal - amh, fuil air an

*mf*

dule and wae dule and wae dule and wae dule and wae

wae dule and wae dule and wae dule and

*mf*

dule and wae dule and

98

wae for the ord-er sent our lads to the bord - er

*mf*

tal - amh, fuil air an tal - amh,

dule and wae dule and wae

*f risoluto*

wae dule and wae ter - na cum lau - de tri - um - pha no - men

wae dule and wae dule and wae

102 *f risoluto*

a - mes Ja - co - bum Sco - ti - a quar - tum sem - per sem - -

*f risoluto*

a - mes Ja - co - bum Sco - ti - a quar - tum sem - per sem - -

*f risoluto*

a - mes Ja - co - bum Sco - ti - a quar - tum sem - per sem -

*f risoluto*

a - mes Ja - co - bum Sco - ti - a quar - tum sem - per sem -

*f risoluto*

a - mes Ja - co - bum Sco - ti - a quar - tum sem - per

105

per sem - per sem - per sem - per sem - per

per sem - per sem - per sem - per sem - per

per sem - per sem - per sem - per sem - per

per sem - per sem - per sem - per sem - per

sem - per sem - per sem - per



più mosso  $\text{♩} = 60$

108 *ff*

Quo du - ce te ce - lo fa - ma se - cun - da fe - ret.

Quo du - ce te ce - lo fa - ma se - cun - da fe - ret.

Quo du - ce te ce - lo fa - ma se - cun - da fe - ret. *f attacca* Sco - to - rum

Quo du - ce te ce - lo fa - ma se - cun - da fe - ret. *f attacca* Sco - to - rum

Quo du - ce te ce - lo fa - ma se - cun - da fe - ret. *f attacca* Sco - to - rum

112 *mf lamentoso*

Sco - to - rum ter - na

*mp triste*

ful

ter - na no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha tri - um - pha  
*senza speranza (shouted)*

ter - na no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha tri - um - pha  
*senza speranza (shouted)*

ter - na no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha tri - um - pha  
*senza speranza (shouted)*

116

no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha Sco - to - rum ter - na no - men cum lau - de  
 air an tal - amh, fuil air an  
 fuil fuil fuil fuil  
 Sco - to - rum no - men Sco - ti - a! Sco - to - rum no - men Sco - ti - a!  
 Sco - to - rum no - men Sco - to - rum Sco - to - rum no - men Sco - to - rum

120

tri - um - pha Sco - ti - a Sco - to - rum no - men  
 tal - amh, fuil fuil air an  
 But now they are moan - ing on il - ka green loan -  
 lau - de tri - um - pha Sco - to - rum no - men fuil air an  
 ter - na no - men cum lau - de tri - um - pha fuil air an

124 *mp* *mf cantando* *mp* *mf* *dim.*

tri - um - pha tri - um - pha

tal - amh, The Flooers o' the For - est are

ing. a mha - r - bhadh fuil fuil

*rasping whisper*

tal - amh, a mha - r - bhadh Sco - to - rum no - men

tal - amh, air an tal - - - amh,

128 **G** *mp* *p* *mf* *mp*

a' wede a - way. fuil fuil

fuil Sco - ti - a Sco - to - rum no - men ter - na cum

Sco - to - rum no - men dule dule dule and wae

fuil dule dule dule and

132 *mp*

fuil nan ui - le dhaoi - ne\_a mha-r-bhadh air an tal - amh,  
 nan ui - le fuil nan ui - le dhaoi-ne\_a mha-r-bhadh air an  
*angoscioso* lau - de ter - na cum lau - de tri - um - pha  
 dule and wae dule and wae dule and wae dule and wae  
 wae dule and wae dule and wae dule and wae dule and

136 *dim.*

fuil nan ui - le dhaoi - ne\_a mha-r-bhadh air an tal - amh, fuil nan  
 tal - amh, fuil nan ui - le dhaoi - ne\_a mha-r-bhadh air an tal - amh,  
*mp* dule and wae dule and wae  
 dule and wae dule and wae dule and wae dule and  
 wae dule and wae fuil air an tal - amh,

140 *mp piangente*

ui - le Sco - to - rum no - men

*dim.* fuil nan ui - le, fuil nan ui - le

*dim.* dule and wae dule and wae dule and wae dule and wae

wae dule and wae dule and wae

*dim.* fuil air an tal - amh,

**H**

144 *Lento, triste*

*p* a mha - r - bhadh

*p lamentoso* fuil nan

*p dolce* We'll hear nae mair lilt - ing at the yowe - milk - ing,

*p dolce* We'll hear nae mair lilt - ing at the yowe - milk - ing,

*p* fuil air an tal - - - amh,

150

*mp* spoken flatly

a mha - r - bhadh

*mp* with 'edge'

ui - le fuil nan

Wo - men and bairns are heart - less and wae;

Wo - men and bairns are heart - less and wae;

fuil air an tal - - -

155

ui - le dhaoi - ne a mha - r - bhadh air an

Sigh - ing and moan - ing on il - ka green

Sigh - ing and moan - ing on il - ka green

amh,

159

*mp* spoken flatly

a mha - r - bhadh

*mp* spoken flatly

tal - amh a mha - r - bhadh

loan - ing: The Flooers o' the For - est are

loan - ing: The Flooers o' the For - est are

fuil air an tal - - - amh,

164

*whispered*

a mha - r - bhadh

*whispered*

a mha - r - bhadh

*niente*

a' wede a - - - way.

*niente*

a' wede a - - - way.

*whispered*

a mha - r - bhadh