Twelve Anthems

for several occasions

Twelve Anthems for Choirs

Tom Fryers

These twelve short anthems were written over many years as opportunity arose with particular choirs. They are, therefore in a variety of styles, but are mostly relatively easy. A few are more demanding, but I hope repay the extra work. I believe all of them to have good tunes, interesting voice parts, and at least a little something 'a bit different'.

They have mostly been performed by church choirs, but sometimes other choirs have been attracted to them, and they may make concert items as well as contributions to worship. Many of the words are my own, others are favourite hymns in a new guise.

Tom Fryers, March 2015. Windermere.

Any choir wishing to perform them may do so and copy enough scores for that purpose. We would be grateful if we were told about any performances. Scores must not be sold and neither words nor music can be published in any form without permission from Tom Fryers' estate.

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A Hymn for Advent

SATB

A Hymn for Advent

SATB

Words and Music Tom Fryers

The poem was originally written in 1986 without thought of music, but was given a melody later the same year and performed as a solo or duo song with guitar. The arrangement for full choir was made in 2004/5. This was first performed by the Allegri Singers, Kendal, in November 2010.

Jesus comes,
Closed in Mary's womb,
Bonded like the tomb
Until the forces of creation
Irresistably make room;
Erupt in life, and resurrection.

Jesus comes, In church and book contained, Religiously constrained Until the Spirit's jubilation Bursts upon the world untamed, And shouts of life, and resurrection.

Jesus comes,
The unsuspected pearl
Hidden in every soul
Until the joyful revelation
When His beauty infuses all
With radiant life, and resurrection.

Jesus comes,
The light of God obscured
By sin and death's dark cloud
Until perpetual celebration
Sweeps away the temporal shroud,
And life needs no resurrection.



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Carol: Mary watch your baby sleep

SATB

Carol: Mary watch your baby sleep

SATB

Words and Music: Tom Fryers

This carol was written in December 1976 as a song with guitar but immediately re-written for SATB for Mary Maiden and the Altrincham Methodist Church Choir. It has been performed many times by several choirs; the most surprising being for a Christmas broadcast on Kwara State Television, Nigeria, by the Ilorin University Staff Choir in 1978.

Mary watch your baby sleep;
For a while,
He is yours to hold and keep.
There will be a time of strife
In a while,
For he is the Lord of Life;
But now, peacefully he lies in his mother's arms.

Mary hear your baby cry;
For a while,
You may calm him easily.
He will suffer shameful things,
In a while,
For he is the King of Kings;
But now, peacefully he lies in his mother's arms.

Mary see your baby smile;
For a while,
See him every-one beguile.
He will know contempt and scorn,
In a while,
For he is the Saviour born.
But now, peacefully he lies in his mother's arms.

Mary watch your baby sleep

S.A.T.B.



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Carol: There was a boy

Two Soprano voices

(solo or small choir)

Carol: There was a boy

Two Soprano voices

(solo or small choir)

Words by John Short (1911-?) Music by Tom Fryers – October 1975

John Short's beautiful poem had long been a favourite of mine, not least because my wife and I both worked in Salford for many years, and four of our children were born there. This setting for two unaccompanied voices had boy sopranos in mind, and certainly should be sung without vibrato, as in early music. It was sung, (transposed into C) by tenor and bass in Cheltenham, Christmas 2007. John Short had a serious mental break-down after the second world war, and lived as a recluse in Ambleside before he died.

There was a boy, bedded in bracken; Like to a sleeping snake, all curled he lay. On his thin navel turned this spinning sphere; Each feeble finger fetched seven suns away. He was not dropped in good for lambing weather; He took no suck when shook buds sing together; But he is come in cold as work-house weather. Poor as a Salford child.

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Carol



Carol: Christmas is here

SATB (divided)

Carol: Christmas is here

SATB (divided)

Tom Fryers – December 1976

This carol was written as a companion piece and counterpoise to 'Mary Watch Your Baby Sleep'. It was first performed at a Christmas concert in the Whitworth Gallery, Manchester, by the Manchester University Chamber Choir, in 1977. It has since been performed in Lancaster and Arnside and Ambleside. Some difficulties were experienced with the original layout of the score, with frequently changing time signatures; an alternative score almost entirely in common time, requiring only one minimal change in note length, proves much easier to conduct and rehearse, but loses the direct connection with the rhythm of the music. Neither version is to be preferred, but it is probably best sung without conductor!

Alleluya; Alleluya. Christmas is here; We wish you good cheer; For Jesus was born at this time of the year. Alleluya.

Alleluya; Alleluya. Christmas is come; We hope you'll have fun; For Jesus was born to set sin on the run. Alleluya.

Alleluya; Alleluya. Christmas arrives; Now happiness thrives; For Jesus was born to bring joy to our lives. Alleluya.

Christmas is here



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Christmas is here



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There is a green hill far away Tune 'Demesne'

SAT/B

There is a green hill far away

Tune 'Demesne'

SAT/B

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

Music: Tom Fryers

This much loved Easter Hymn was given a new tune in 1964 and arranged simply for three voices (because of the dearth of men in choirs) in February 2004. It can be sung as a hymn just using that arrangement, printed here for verses 1, 2 and 4, and for this reason all the words are printed under the first verse. In this form it was first given by Ruth Bellis and the Stricklandgate Methodist Church Choir, Kendal. In May 2006 two other three-part arrangements were added for verses 3 and 5 respectively, to render it more suitable as a choir anthem.

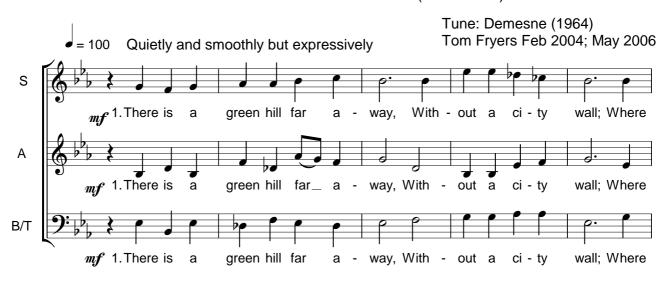
- 1.
 There is a green hill far away,
 Without a city wall;
 Where the dear Lord was crucified,
 Who died to save us all.
- 3.
 He died that we might be forgiven;
 He died to make us good;
 That we might go at least to heaven,
 Saved by his precious blood.
- 2.
 We may not know, we cannot tell,
 What pains he had to bear;
 But we believe it ws for us
 He hung and suffered there.
- 4.
 There was no other good enough
 To pay the prive of sin;
 He only could unlock the gates
 Of heaven, to let us in.

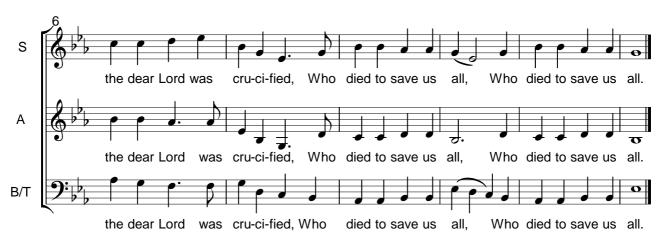
5. O dearly, dearly has he loved; And we must love him too, And trust in his redeeming love, And try his works to do.

There is a green hill far away

Three voices: SAT/B

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)





- We may not know, we cannot tell, What pains he had to bear; But we believe it was for us He hung and suffered there.
- 3. He died that we might be forgiven; He died to make us good; That we might go at last to heaven, Saved by his precious blood.
- There was no other good enough To pay the price of sin; He only could unlock the gates Of heaven, to let us in.
- O dearly, dearly has he loved;
 And we must love him too,
 And trust in his redeeming love,
 And try his works to do.

Cecil Francis Alexander (1818-1895)



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All ye that pass by

SATB

All ye that pass by

SATB

Words: Charles Wesley

Music: Tom Fryers

Written for & first performed by Ruth Bellis and the Stricklandgate Methodist Church Choir, Kendal, on Good Friday, 1995.

All ye that pass by,
To Jesus draw nigh;
To you is it nothing that Jesus should die?
Your ransome and peace,
Your surety he is;
Come, see if there ever was sorry like his.

He dies to atone
For sins not his own;
Your debt he has paid and your work he has done.
Ye all may receive
The peace he did leave;
Who made intercession: "My Father, forgive."

For you and for me
He prayed on the tree;
The prayer is accepted, the sinner is free.
That sinner am I,
Who on Jesus rely;
And come for the pardon God cannot deny.

My pardon I claim,
For a sinner I am;
A sinner believing in jesus's name.
He purchased the grace,
Which now I embrace;
O, Father, thou knowst he has died in my place.

All ye that pass by

For Ruth Bellis and the Stricklandgate choir



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See him lying in the tombAn anthem for Good Friday

SATB

See him lying in the tomb An anthem for Good Friday

SATB

Words and Music: Tom Fryers

Written in January 2006 for Ruth Bellis and the Stricklandgate Methodist Church Choir, Kendal and performed the following Easter.

See him lying in the tomb, His spirit flying to his home. Our lives were nourished While Jesus flourished; The hopes we cherished With him have perished.

Now the stone is rolled in place; We never more shall see his face. For they have taken, And we forsaken, The friend we adored, Our love, our Lord.

But did he promise to return? Should we a-wait the coming dawn? Though man of men with men he stood, His spirit was like that of God.

And there is hope to bring us ease; For life like his can never cease. His love can never be destroyed; For nature will eschew a void.

Now there's nothing more to see, And we must let his body be. The light is fading, The dark is shading Our eyes, our seeing; Our souls, our being.

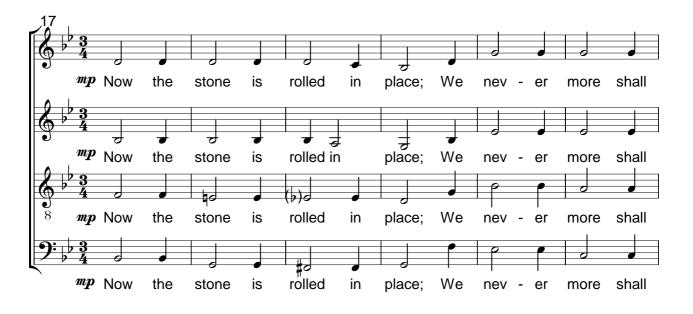
Now we rise and turn to go, Our minds are numb, our steps are slow. Our hearts are grieving, Yet half believing The love of Jesus Will never leave us.

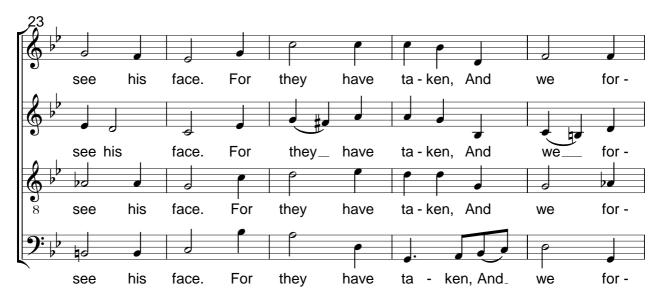
See him lying in the tomb

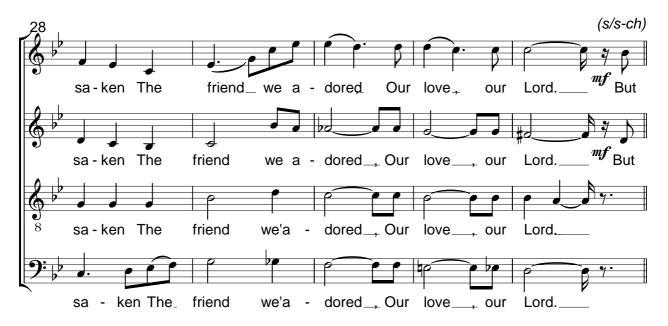
SATB



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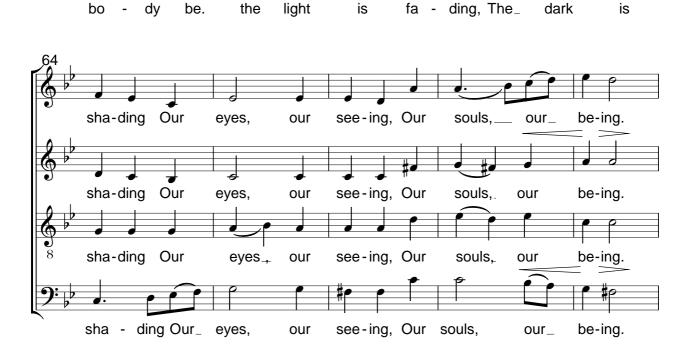






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Spring SongAn Easter Carol

SAT/B & Piano

Spring Song An Easter Carol

SAT/B & Piano

Words and Music: Tom Fryers

The words and melody for this carol for the Easter season were written while waiting in Helsinki Airport in March 2004, and the music completed in April, in three parts because of the frequent dearth of men in church choirs. It was first performed on Easter Sunday morning 2005 by Ruth Bellis and the Stricklandgate Methodist Church Choir, Kendal. The piano accompaniment is somewhat independent and is not essential, but adds a lightness suited to the theme.

Can't you see, at the heart of spring, There is wonder and laughter in everything? And as the frosts retreat, and new green shoots appear, There is magic and a miracle for every year.

Can't you see that the turning year Makes the mind of the loving Creator clear? And as the saddened land awakes to joy and grace, So the resurrection miracle again takes place.

Can't you feel all creation crave Release from winter of passion, and cross, and grave? And so with Jesus now, share the awakening To a loving Father's eternal and perpetual spring.

Spring Song

SAT/B & Piano



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Dear Master, in whose life I see

SATB

Dear Master, in whose life I see

Words: John Hunter (1848-1917)

Music: Tom Fryers

This was written as a companion piece to 'Jesus, I fain would find thy zeal for God in me', being another short two-verse hymn full of meaning. Its original ending was on a unison A flat, symbolising 'one' in the words, but an ending like the first verse on a chord of F major may be found more satisfactory. Both are included in the score, for performers to choose.

Dear Master, in whose life I see. All that I would but fail to be; Let your clear light for ever shine To shame and guide this life of mine.

Though what I dream and what I do In my weak days are always two, Help me, oppressed by things undone, O thou whose deeds and dreams are one.

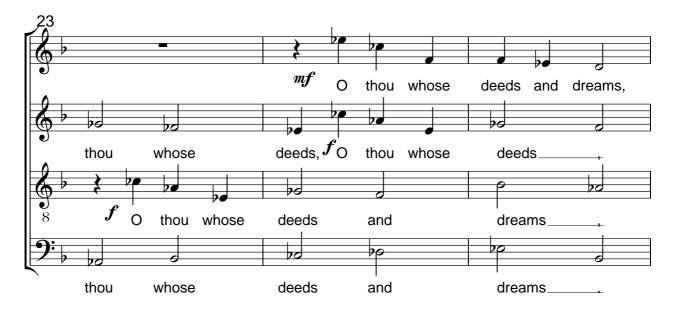
Dear Master, in whose life I see

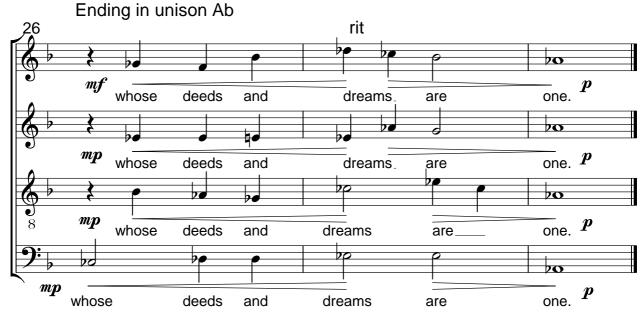
John Hunter (1848-1917)

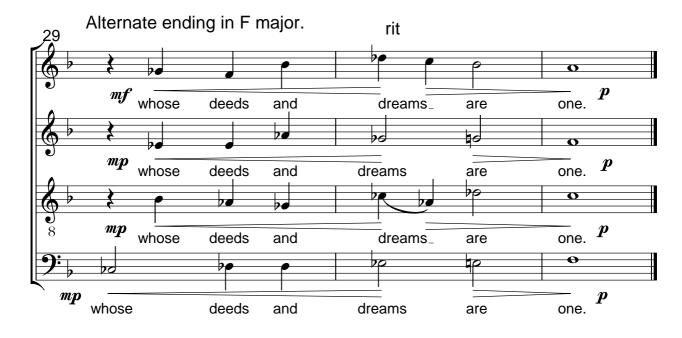


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Jesus, I fain would find thy zeal for God in me

SATB

Jesus, I fain would find thy zeal for God in me

SATB

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: Tom Fryers

This is a response to discovering, and using in worship, Wesley's succinct, explicit, logical and passionate prayer for a true Christian life, imbued with the Spirit of God and committed wholly to others. It was composed in summer 2006 for either four individual voices or small choir. The rather jolly melody arose very spontaneously and it appears unvaried in each of the four voices in turn, so the two short verses are repeated. Other voices interleave syncopated counterpoint throughout, a bit like madrigal writing.

Jesus, I fain would find Thy zeal for God in me; Thy yearning pity for mankind, Thy burning charity.

In me thy Spirit dwell; In me thy mercies move; So shall the fervour of my zeal Be thy pure flame of love.

Jesus, I fain would find thy zeal for God in me;





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Make me a captive, Lord

Tune: 'Captivity'

SATB

Make me a captive, Lord

Tune: 'Captivity'

SATB

Words: George Matheson (1842-1906)

Music: Tom Fryers

This hymn tune was written for and sung at a youth week-end from the Albert Hall Methodist Church, Manchester, in 1965.
The choir arrangement was made in 1998.

Make me a captive, Lord, And then I shall be free; Force me to render up my sword, And I shall conqueror be. I sink in life's alarms When by myself I stand; Imprison me within thine arms, And strong shall be my hand.

My power is faint and low
Till I have learned to serve;
It wants the needed fire to glow,
It wants the breeze to nerve;
It cannot freely move,
Till thou hast wrought its chain;
Enslave it with thy matchless love,
And deathless it shall reign.

My will is not my own
Till thou hast made it thine;
If it would reach a monarch's throne
It must its crown resign;
It only stands unbent,
Amid the clashing strife,
When on thy bosom it has leant
And found in thee its life.

Make me a captive, Lord

SATB



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It matters to him about you

SSA & Piano

It matters to him about you

SSA & Piano

Words and Music: Tom Fryers

This song was written in March 1976 for Mary Maiden and the women's and children's voices of the Altrincham Methodist Church Choir and Junior Choir, who performed it that year. The piano accompaniment was thoroughly re-written in January 2003 for Ruth Bellis and the Stricklandgate Methodist Church Choir, Kendal, and performed by them later that year.

It matters to him about you,
It matters to him about you;
All the day long, all the night through,
He's caring, caring for me,
He's caring, caring for you;
His mercy is tender, his love ever true,
It matters, matters, matters;
It matters to him about you.

It matters to him about you;
It matters to him about you;
There, on the cross, what pain he knew,
He suffered, suffered for me,
He suffered, suffered for you;
But, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do",
It matters, matters, matters;
It matters to him about you.

It matters to him about you;
It matters to him about you;
The loving spirit of our Lord, will take our lives and guide us through;
He's calling, calling for me,
He's calling, calling for you;
Our hearts he will enter and make all things new,
It matters, matters, matters;
It matters to him about you.

It Matters To Him About You

For three high voices



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