



# Anthony Hedges

Royaume-Uni, Oxford

## Prayers from the Ark: song cycle for tenor or soprano (op.68)

### A propos de l'artiste

Dr. Anthony Hedges, 1931 - 2019, taught at The Royal Scottish Academy of Music, then was a lecturer and Reader in Composition at Hull University until he retired in 1994. His large output covered all major genres of music, much of which has been broadcast and recorded. His main compositions, together with some recorded extracts and a full discography, is available on his website. All the scores here may be purchased as published copies together with parts (where applicable) direct from the composer's elder daughter and musical executor, Fiona Hedges, by e-mail. She has inherited all his copyrights. Further information on his life and works can be found on Facebook (Anthony Hedges - composer). A selection of his works can be listened to on Sound Cloud: <https://soundcloud.com/anthony-hedges>; others can be heard on YouTube.

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### A propos de la pièce



**Titre :** Prayers from the Ark: song cycle for tenor or soprano [op.68]

**Compositeur :** Hedges, Anthony

**Droit d'auteur :** Copyright © Fiona Hedges

**Instrumentation :** Voix Soprano ou Tenor et Piano

**Style :** Classique moderne

**Commentaire :** This song cycle is suitable for either Tenor or Soprano and Piano "Splendid miniatures....a most welcome addition to the singer's recital repertoire." (Hull Daily Mail)

### Anthony Hedges sur [free-scores.com](https://www.free-scores.com)



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Commissioned by Martyn Hill with Arts Council funds

# PRAYERS FROM THE ARK

for Tenor or Soprano and Piano

transposed version\*

Poems by Carmen Bernos de Gastold,  
translated from the French  
by Anthony Hedges.

Anthony Hedges

## 1. NOAH'S PRAYER

**Agitato, ma non troppo allegro** *ff*

Lord what a me-na-ge-rie!

*f*

Be-tween Your de-luge and these a-ni-mal cries one can-not think-at all!

*mf freely*

The time hangs hea-vy and long,

\* The original settings were a tone higher

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[www.hedgeswestfieldmusic.co.uk](http://www.hedgeswestfieldmusic.co.uk)

*f* tempo giusto

long. All this wa - ter makes my heart sink. When shall I

*poco f*

*mf*

walk once a - gain with stea-dy feet? The time hangs

*decr.*  
*mf*

*f*

hea - - - vy and long. Ma - ster Ra-ven has not re-

*cresc.*  
*f*

*mp*

turned. Here is your dove. Will she find us a sam-ple of hope?

*mp*  
4

*p freely*  
The time— hangs hea-vy and long, — long.

*tempo giusto*

*poco f*  
Lead your ark to safe - ty to a point of re - pose, and let us es-cape at last, e -

*poco f*

*mf freely*  
scape this a-ni-mal sla-ve-ry. The days—hang hea-vy and long, — long. O Lord,

*meno mosso mp*

*meno mosso mp*

lead me to the shores,— the shores of your co - ve-nant. A - men.

*dim. p*

## 2. THE PRAYER OF THE COCK

**Allegro moderato e ritmico** *f*

**Allegro moderato e ritmico** Do not for-get, Lord,

do not for-get, Lord that I, that I, that I— make the sun— rise, I— make the sun— rise!

*mf* *suave* I am your ser- vant, I am your ser- vant, *f* *ritmico* But the dig- ni-ty, di- gni-ty of my

sta- tion *mf* *cresc.* Needs— some— out- ward show, some out-ward show, some out-ward show

and world - ly o - - - - - sten - ta - tion. No - blesse o - blige...

*ff*

3

Ne - ver - the - less, I am your ser - vant,

*mf suave*

3

I am your ser - vant, ser - vant... Do not for - get, Lord,

*f*

3

I - - - - - make - the sun - - - - - rise. A - - - - - men.

*ff*

*piu f*

*sfz*

3

## 3. THE PRAYER OF THE LITTLE BIRD

*Poco lento*  
*mp*

O — God — I don't know how to pray ve - ry well, all a - lone!

*Poco lento*  
*mp*

But will You please pro - tect from wind and rain my li - ttle nest?

*mp*

Put much — dew, much dew on the flo - wers, lots of seeds where I

*quasi arpa*

*una corda con ped.*

*mf*

go. Make the blue sky ve - ry high, the bran - ches su - pple:

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. The first system is in 4/4 time, with a tempo marking of 'Poco lento' and dynamics of 'mp' and 'p'. The second system is also in 4/4 time, with 'Poco lento' and 'p'. The third system is in 4/4 time, with 'mp' and 'quasi arpa' markings. The fourth system starts in 2/4 time and changes to 4/4 time, with a 'mf' dynamic. The piano accompaniment includes arpeggiated chords and a 'quasi arpa' section with a 'una corda con ped.' instruction.

Let Your sweet light stay late in the sky And leave in my heart this

*tre corde*

*cresc.* *f*  
end - less mu - - - sic so that I may sing,

sing, sing, sing, Please,

*mf*

Lord. A - men.

*dim.* *p*



## 4. THE PRAYER OF THE LITTLE DUCKS

**Allegro vivo** *f*

O God give us plen - ty of wa - ter. Make it

**Allegro vivo**

*f*

*meno f* molto legato

rain to - mo - row and al - ways. Give us plen - ty of

*mf* molto legato

*mf*

li - ttle slugs and o - ther love - ly things to eat. Pro - tect all

*f* *mf*

*piu f*

qua - cking folk and all those who know how to swim. A - men.

*piu f*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a variety of textures, including arpeggiated chords, sixteenth-note patterns, and triplet figures. The tempo is marked 'Allegro vivo' throughout. Dynamics range from forte (f) to mezzo-forte (mf) and piano (p). The key signature has one flat (B-flat major/D minor). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 7/8 and back to 4/4. The lyrics are: 'O God give us plenty of water. Make it rain tomorrow and always. Give us plenty of little slugs and other lovely things to eat. Protect all quacking folk and all those who know how to swim. Amen.'

# 5. THE PRAYER OF THE OX

*Andante* *mf*

Dear God,



give me time. Men are al-ways so hu - rried. Make them un-der-stand that I



can-not go qui - ckly. Give me time to eat. Give me time to



*piu p* *mf*

plod. Give me time to sleep. Give me time to think.

*piu p*



A - men.

*mp* *p* *pp*

### 6. THE PRAYER OF THE FOAL

**Scherzando** *poco f*

O — God! — the grass is so young! — My hooves are feel - ing fri - sky,

**Scherzando** *poco f*

*sotto voce* 2

fee - - - ling, fee - ling fri - sky, fee - ling fri - sky. Why, then,

*p*

2 2 2 2

why this te - rror, this te - rror — in me?

2 2 2

*f*

I race \_\_\_\_\_ and my mane \_\_\_\_\_ is caught by the wind,

*poco f*

*jubilante*

I race \_\_\_\_\_ and my mane is caught by the wind, I race \_\_\_\_\_

race, \_\_\_\_\_ I race, \_\_\_\_\_ I race \_\_\_\_\_ sli - pping and stum - bling

in my joy, And I am pri - so - ner of my eyes that see too much,

*mf* 2 2 2 2 2 2 *f* 2

Eyes too quick to sieze the un - eas - i - ness — that co - vers the whole — world. Dear — God,

*mp* *f*

*p* *mf*

when the strange night prowls — round the edge of day, Let — your - self be moved by my

*p* *mf*

*mp*

plain - tive whi - nny: May a star watch o - ver me — and still — my fear.

*mp*

*mp* *p*

A - - - men.

*p*

# 7. THE PRAYER OF THE CAT

*Andantino*

Lord, Lord, I am the

*p*

cat. I am the cat. It is not ex - act - ly that

*f*

I have some-thing to ask of You! No I ask no-thing of a-ny-one... but-

*molto legato e suave*

If you have just by chance, in the gra - nar - ies of

heaven a li-ttle white mouse, or a sau-cer of milk, I know some-one who would

re - lish them. Would you, some - day, some - day,

would you some-day, some - day, put a curse on the whole race of dogs? If— so

I should say A - men, A - - men, A - men.

Musical score for the first system, featuring a vocal line and piano accompaniment in B-flat major, 4/4 time. The piano part includes dynamics markings *mp*, *p*, and *pp*.

## 8. THE PRAYER OF THE BUTTERFLY

Musical score for the second system, including tempo markings *Moderato* and dynamic markings *mf* *ad lib., con rubato* and *p*. The vocal line includes the lyrics "Lord! Lord! Where was I?".

Musical score for the third system, including dynamic markings *p* and *mp*. The vocal line includes the lyrics "Where was I? Oh yes! This flow-er, this sun,".

Musical score for the fourth system, including tempo marking *poco f* and dynamic marking *mf*. The vocal line includes the lyrics "thank— you! Your world is beau-ti- ful! The scent of ro - ses".



*mp*

Where was I? A drop of

*poco f*

dew rolls to fli - - - cker in a li - ly's

*mp* *poco f*

*mp*

heart.

*mp* *molto legato*

*mf*

I ought to go... Where? I do not know!

*p* *mf* *mp*

*mp* The wind has pain - ted fan - cies on my wings, *f* Fan - cies... *p* Where was I?

*f* Oh yes! Lord, — I had some - thing to tell — You. *p* A - men. *attacca*

## 9. THE PRAYER OF THE GOAT

### Allegro ma non troppo

*f* Lord, Lord, Let me live as I will, let me live as I will!

*f* *Allegro ma non troppo*

I need a li - ttle wild free - dom, free - dom, free - dom,

a li - ttle gi - - - di - ness of heart. *mp* and that strange

fla - vour of un - known flowers. For whom did You make moun - tains?

The snow wind? and the Springs? *mf* The... sheep... do not

*poco meno mosso e senza espressione*

un - der - stand. They — graze, — they graze, all of them and al - ways hold the

*poco meno mosso*

same o - pin - ion, and then — end - less - ly chew — the cud — of

*p molto legato*

their in - si - pid rou - tine. But I, I love to leap, to

*a tempo primo*

*mf ff piu mosso*

*a tempo primo*

*f piu mosso*

leap, — leap, — I love to leap — to the heart of Your cre - a - tions,

cross, — cross, — cross Your cha - sms, and, — my mouth filled full of

*f*

*mf*

name - less - gra - sses trem - ble,

*f*

*8va* *tr*

*f* *tr*

tre - ble with as - ven - tur - ous de - light

*8va*

*loco*

*ff*

at the high point of the world! A - - -

*8va*

men.

*8va* *tr*

*loco*

*ff* *tr*

*sfz* *sfz*