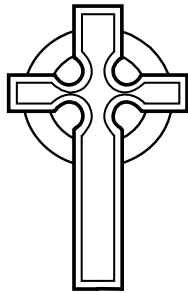


da capo

a cappella chamber choir

presents

Reflections for All Souls'



The sudden loss in 1935 of an only son (Michael died of spinal meningitis at the age of nine), a loss essentially profound and, in its very nature, beyond argument, might naturally impel a composer, after a time, to seek release and consolation in language and terms most personal to him. Music may well have the power beyond any other medium to offer that release and comfort.

It did so in my case, and became a personal, private document. For text, I sought immemorial prose; but I used only two lines from the Latin Requiem Mass ... knowing that one of them - 'et lux perpetua luceat eis' - would govern the work - especially that one word 'lux', 'light'. Light indeed touches all but one of the six movements.

'Blessed are the dead' alone stands outside - and yet is inside of - that same light. Even the gravest verse of the 23rd Psalm reflects it ... the 121st Psalm, 'I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills', blazes with it. [All] the movements are settings of Latin and English texts. These are drawn from the psalms, the 'Missa pro defunctis', and the Book of Common Prayer, and are immemorial reflections upon the transient griefs and indestructible hopes of mankind. All are appropriate to the mood and purpose of the Requiem'.

Herbert Howells