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# The Tree



*Jones Very* (1813 – 1880)

I love thee when thy swelling buds appear,  
And one by one their tender leaves unfold,  
As if they knew that warmer suns were near,  
Nor longer sought to hide from winter's cold;  
And when with darker growth thy leaves are seen  
To veil from view the early robin's nest,  
I love to lie beneath thy waving screen,  
With limbs by summer's heat and toil oppress'd;  
And when the autumn winds have stript thee bare,  
And round thee lies the smooth, untrodden snow,  
When naught is thine that made thee once so fair,  
I love to watch thy shadowy form below,  
And through thy leafless arms to look above  
On stars that brighter beam when most we need their love.

**For unaccompanied mixed choir**  
with piano reduction for rehearsal only

**Duration: 3 minutes**

***The Tree*** was composed at the 2003 Oxford Summer Institutes at Lehigh, where it received a reading by the Princeton Singers under the direction of Steven Sametz. The premiere performances were given by the American University Chamber Singers under the direction of Daniel Abraham on April 2 and 3, 2004, at the Harold & Sylvia Greenberg Theatre, Washington, D.C.

For information about composer Greg Bartholomew, visit [www.gregbartholomew.com](http://www.gregbartholomew.com).

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For Richard G. Hutter

# The Tree

Jones Very  
(1813 - 1880)

Greg Bartholomew  
(b. 1957)

$\text{♩} = 90$  *Broadly, in awe of the miracle*

*mp* *mf*

Soprano  
I love thee when thy swell - ing buds ap - pear, and one by one thy

Alto  
I love thee when thy swell - ing buds ap - pear, and one by

Tenor  
I love thee when thy swell - ing buds ap - pear, and

Bass  
I love thee when thy swell - ing buds ap - pear, and one

Piano

**A** a little faster  
 $\text{♩} = 100$

8

ten - der leaves un - fold, As if they knew that warm

one thy leaves un - fold, As if they knew, they knew warm

one by one their leaves un - fold, They knew that warm - er

by one un - fold, As if they knew, knew that warm - er

**A** a little faster  
 $\text{♩} = 100$

Piano

15

suns were near, nor long - er sought to hide from win - ter's cold;

suns were near, nor long - er sought to hide from win - ter's cold;

suns were near, nor long - er sought to hide from win - ter's cold;

suns were near, as if they no long - er sought to hide from win - ter's cold;

21

**B** a little slower  $\text{♩} = 96$

*mf* *rallentando*

To veil from view the ear - ly ro - bin's nest,

*mf*

To veil from view the ear - ly ro - bin's nest,

*mf*

And when with dark - er growth thy leaves are seen to veil from view the ro - bin's nest,

*mf*

And when with dark - er growth thy leaves are seen to veil from view the ro - bin's nest,

**B** a little slower  $\text{♩} = 96$

*mf* *rallentando*