

A Tribute to William Blake,

is a song cycle consisting of eight songs on poems by William Blake for mixed a cappella choir and baritone solo. This song cycle was commissioned by The Festival of Flanders, department of Kortrijk in 2006 and created on 24th of November 2007 by the mixed choir 'Helicon' of Lier, Belgium, conducted by Geert Hendrix. This is a live-recording of the creation concert which took place at the 'Budascoop' concert hall in Kortrijk. Seven of the eight songs were performed with the participation of Werner Van Mechelen, baritone solo.

5. The sick Rose

THE SICK ROSE

O rose, thou art sick!
The invisible worm,
That flies in the night,
In the howling storm,

Has found out thy bed
Of crimson joy,
And his dark secret love
Does thy life destroy.

I have chosen this dark and gloomy poem as a contrast with the other poems which almost all give us a rather positive and hopeful view on life (on nature).

I worked out this song in eight voices and tried to find the somber mood in which Blake probably was the day he wrote this poem. As you will find out I am using the triton harmony which in a wonderfully way renders this poem its sadness and somberness.