

Stranded on My Heart for solo tenor, SATB choir, and string orchestra. (1984)

Stranded on My Heart was written for the St Alban's Chamber Choir, conductor Richard Stangroom. They commissioned it with funds provided by the Eastern Arts Association and gave the first performance in June 1984, with Ian Partridge, solo tenor.

Stranded on My Heart is a lullaby sequence - for grown-ups as well as children. It is dedicated to all my friends in the peace movement, and especially Liz Till. It lasts about twenty minutes.

The title is taken from a couplet by Tagore, written for his first child: "Floating down the stream of the world's life, you have stranded on my heart". The texts form an anthology which I compiled from a number of sources. The chorale 'Resting' comes from my *Like a Wave of the Sea* (1981); its text is from the Upanishads. I have adapted traditional nursery rhyme texts and used poems by Marina Tsvetayeva, (trans. Elaine Feinstein), David Sutton and John Fuller. Fuller's lullaby *Sleep little baby* was the starting point for this piece, which was composed soon after my own first child was born.

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