

## FANTASY for four Harps (2014)

### Programme note

*Fantasy* was commissioned by 'Four Girls Four Harps' as part of a project inspired by famous women from the past. The short pieces were also required to acknowledge Henriette Renié's *Legende*.

I composed *Fantasy* in honour of Millicent Fawcett, tireless campaigner for women's suffrage. It lasts five minutes and has a simple shape, gradually descending from high register to low, before stabilising for its conclusion.

Millicent Fawcett's name runs through my piece in pitch ('Mi' =Eb) and rhythm, and her struggles, achievements and final DBE did indeed inspire my piece.

Millicent Fawcett, (1847 – 1929, nee Garrett) was a person of great energy and initiative, who carried multiple roles: as leader of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, as a writer, as a dedicated campaigner for legal protection for women in Britain and overseas. She believed passionately in education for women, and was co-founder of Newnham College, Cambridge. She was married to Henry Fawcett, running households in London and Cambridge, and mother to the brilliant mathematician Philippa Fawcett.

For her life-long dedication to the cause of women's rights, she was created Dame in 1928.

NL 2014