EXULTET TERRA
for SATB Chorus and Double Reeds

I. Exultet Terra

Chorus

Exultet terra
Gaudebunt campi
Cantate Domino omnis terra

Let the earth be glad:
Let the field be joyful,
Then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice.

For ye shall go out with joy,
and be led forth with peace:
the mountains and the hills shall
break forth before you into singing,
and all the trees of the field
shall clap their hands.

Hymn I

I Blesse thee, Lord, because I GROW
Among thy trees, which in a ROW
To thee botht fruit and order OW.

What open force, or hidden CHARM
Can blast my fruit, or bring me HARM,
While the inclosure is thine ARM?

Inclose me still for fear I START.
Be to me rather Sharp and TART,
Then let me want thy hand and ART.

When thou dost greater judgements SPARE,
And with thy knife but prune and PARE,
Ev’n fruitfull trees more fruitfull ARE.

Such sharpnes shows the sweetest FREND:
Such cuttings rather heal then REND:
And such beginnings touch their END.

"Paradise", George Herbert

II. In Sanctus Eius

Chorus

Laudate Dominum
in sanctus eius
Omnis spiritus
laudet Dominum

(women)

My heart is smitten, and withered like grass;
I am like an owl of the desert
I watch, and am as a sparrow alone on the house top.
(A few voices) Unless the Lord had been my help,
My soul had almost dwelt in silence.

Hymn II

MY words and thoughts do both expresse this notion,
That LIFE hath with the sun a double motion.
The first IS straight, and our diurnall friend,
The other HID and doth obliquely bend.
One life is wrapt IN flesh, and tends to earth:
The other winds towards HIM, whose happie birth
Taught me to live here so, THAT still one eye
Should aim and shoot at that which IS on high:
Quitting with daily labour all MY pleasure,
To gain at harvest an eternall TREASURE.

"Colos. 3.3", George Herbert

III. Iubilate

Chorus Iubilate Domino omnis terra
Cantate et exultate et psallite
Simul montes exultabunt a conspectu Domini

Let the earth rejoice:
Let the fields rejoice, and all that is therein:
then shall all the trees of the wood sing out
at the presence of the Lord.

Hymn III

O Who will show me those delights on high? I.
Thou Echo, thou art mortall, all men know. No.
Wert thou not born among the trees and leaves? Leaves.
What leaves are they? impart the matter wholly. Holy.
Are holy leaves the Echo then of bliss? Yes.
Then tell me, what is that supreme delight? Light.
Light to the minde: what shall the will enjoy? Joy.
But are there cares and businesse with the pleasure? Leisure.
Light, joy, and leisure; but shall they persever? Ever.

"Heaven", George Herbert

Chorus Exultet terra
Gaudebunt campi
Cantate Domino omnis terra

Let the earth be glad:
Let the field be joyful,
Then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice.

Words: Adapted by the composer from --
King James' Bible (Psalms, I Chron., Isa.)
Vulgate Bible (Psalms)
The Works of George Herbert (O.U.P.)