

### **An Epitaph on Claudy Phillips, a Musician**

Phillips! whose touch harmonious could remove  
The pangs of guilty pow'r and hapless love,  
Rest here, distress'd by poverty no more,  
Here find that calm thou gav'st so oft before;  
Sleep undisturbed within this peaceful shrine,  
Till angels wake thee with a note like thine.

Samuel Johnson (1740)

The text, written by Samuel Johnson in 1740, refers to Claudy Phillips, a fiddler who traveled throughout Wales and was greatly celebrated for his performances.

The music is derived from three sources: the final chorale (beginning at rehearsal letter O), which was composed first; an English folk song, "Lord Bateman," (heard in its fullest extent in the viola beginning at rehearsal letter E); and finally, a characteristic motive of English folk song described by Imogen Holst in her book *Tune* and heard most clearly at the beginning of the viola cadenza.

This is an atmospheric piece; the final impression should be that of walking slowly through a large, echoing stone church, hearing the subdued hum of voices and occasional bells, and remembering how Phillips used to play.

duration: c. 11:30