Daedalus and Icarus

for four boy sopranos, solo trumpet, piano and strings



Daedalus and Icarus

We are made of rock
Father, how can we fly?
There is no freedom in the sky
Just the pull of the earth below.
A bird must be free in the sky.

We are made of earth
Son, with nothing of air
But breath, and the wind in our hair.
The sun pulls us up like birds
But we are not free in the air.

We were made to fall
Father, the waters below
I feel the strength of their call.
The fish who swim like birds in the air
Need no wings to fall.

We are made of the sea
Son, to water our weight
We give to the birds when we fall.
Without wings we will fly in the depths
Where the sun cannot touch us at all
Where the sun cannot call us to fall.

John Hughes, 2006

This work was commissioned by Martin Smith and Sydney Grammar Prep School, St Ives, for their Festival of the Arts 2006. The four vocal parts were written for the school's four vocal scholars and are accompanied by solo trumpet, piano and string orchestra (three violin parts, but no violas nor basses, at Martin's request).

The text was commissioned as part of the project and was written by John Hughes. I have remained as faithful to the feeling and structure of the poem as artistically possible.

James Humberstone, 2006

For Martin Smith and Sydney Grammar School

Daedalus and Icarus

Words by John Hughes

Music by James Humberstone



















