

Meditation: Jesu, be thou my joy

This very personal and moving prayer-poem by Richard Rolle (c.1300-1349) is probably the earliest of the texts I have selected. As with “Jesu, be thou my joy” (#3), it is defined as an “embedded lyric”. I have matched the simplicity of both poems with straightforward musical textures, comprising chorale-like melody and chordal accompaniment, here performed by tenor and harp.

*For the duration of the year 2014, choirs and solo artists are hereby granted permission to print the accompanying score of “Jesu, be thou my joy” and to duplicate as many copies as they require for their own performances. Permission is also given them to perform this work, and those who choose to do so are asked to inform John Laing ahead of time, using my **contact page**.*