

STUART BEATCH

I am like many

for SATB (divisi) choir, a cappella

Commissioned by Senate House Library
for their 2018 exhibition, *Queer Between the Covers*

Composed February 2018 at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity (Banff, Canada)
with the assistance of Uģis Prauliņš, Michael Zaugg, and Pro Coro Canada

First performed 19 May 2018 in the Crush Hall at Senate House Library (London, UK)
by The Fourth Choir, conducted by Dominic Ellis-Peckham

Performance Note

The third section, 'Debate', is arranged for triple choir.
Choir I and II (both SATB) represent the debating parties,
and should be separated on stage, directly facing each other.

The Semichorus can be any small combination of singers,
and should either stand off-stage or between the two choirs on stage.
Their music should be distant and chant-like, either sung at pitch or an octave lower.

The rest of the piece should be performed in a normal choral arrangement.

Text

I

*God, like the potter, when his clay is damp,
Gives every man, in birth, a different stamp.
Bear witness: man, whate'er his rank may be.
Who now can say my caste from stain is free?*

Is it a matter for the private conscience?
And tell us, casuists, were statutes meant
To scourge the wicked or the innocent?

These persons are a malignant canker;
if allowed to grow it would eventually
kill what is known as normal life.

II

26 November 1958.
Parliament debates the Wolfenden Report to-day.
The House is torn by the problem it faces;
by the distinction between sin and crime;
by the risk in the remedies it might propose.

*That little spot, which constitutes our isle,
Is not the world! Its censure or its smile
Can never reason's fabric overthrow.*

It is a foregone conclusion
that the homosexual laws will not be reformed yet,
but that reform must come eventually.

III

People have no idea of the life of fear and dread
we live. I want them to look upon this debate
with kindness and sympathy, and think,
'There, but for the grace of God, go I.'

Is such conduct injurious to society?
*'Tis hard to say why erring mortals think
This fount is pure, and that unfit to drink.*

*Love, love it was, that made my eyes delight
To have his person ever in my sight.*

Great nations have fallen and empires been
destroyed because corruption became widespread.

I do not pretend that I am good
but I am like many.

The text in italics is extracted from the 19th century poem *Don Leon*, attributed to Lord Byron.
The remaining text is adapted from the following sources:

Barkley, William. "Butler Speaks on Vice." *Daily Express*, November 27, 1958.

HC Deb 26 November 1958, vol 596, cols 365-508.

Holt, George. "M.P.s Face Dilemma of Sin and Crime." *New Chronicle*, November 27, 1958.

"Vice." *The Times*, November 26, 1958.

Vouin, Robert. Letter to the Progressive League. Quoted in *Evidence Submitted by the Progressive League to the Home Office Committee on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution* (London, 1955).

Commissioned by Senate House Library for their 2018 exhibition, *Queer Between the Covers*,
and respectfully dedicated to Dominic Ellis-Peckham and The Fourth Choir

I am like many

for SATB (divisi) choir, a cappella * 3-stemming S/A

Text adapted by the composer
from 19th and 20th c. sources

1. MR, GL, RJ, VK
2. AK, PD, LB, FH
3. RL, GK, FP, PB.

Stuart Beatch
(b. 1991)

Prelude

Calm (♩ = c. 66)

Soprano *pp* *mp*
God, like the pot - ter, — when his clay is damp,

Alto *pp* *mp*
God, like the pot - ter, — when his clay is damp,

Tenor *pp* *mp*
God, like the pot - ter, — when his clay is damp,

Bass *pp non vib.* *mp* *pp*
Ooo

6 *p* *mf* *mp*
gives ev-ery man, in birth, a dif-ferent stamp. Bear wit-ness: man, what-

p *mf* *mp*
gives ev-ery man, in birth, a dif-ferent stamp. Bear wit-ness: man, what-

p *mf* *mp*
gives ev-ery man, in birth, a dif-ferent stamp. Bear wit-ness: man, what-

mf *pp*

Des

11 *f* *ppp* *p*
e'er his rank may be. Who now can say my caste from stain is free?

f *ppp* *p*
e'er his rank may be. Who now can say my caste from stain is free?

f *ppp* *p*
e'er his rank may be. Who now can say my caste from stain is free?

f *ppp*

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Version 1.0

NB I tried to patch in a few more.

C

In the House of Commons

Fast and driving (♩ = 138) *ff*

Twen-ty-six No-vem-ber nine-teen fif-ty eight.

Twen-ty-six No-vem-ber nine-teen fif-ty eight.

Twen-ty-six No-vem-ber nine-teen fif-ty eight.

f ma legato
Na-na-na-na-na-na-na (sim.)
Koristiedu adem hale.

5

Par-lia-ment de-bates the Wol-fen-den Re-port to-day.

Par-lia-ment de-bates the Wol-fen-den Re-port to-day.

Par-lia-ment de-bates the Wol-fen-den Re-port to-day.

9

The house is torn by the prob-lem it fa-ces; by the dis-tinc-tion be-

The house is torn by the prob-lem it fa-ces; by the dis-tinc-tion be-

The house is torn by the prob-lem it fa-ces; by the dis-tinc-tion be-

13

tween sin and crime; by the risk in the rem - e - dies it might pro - pose.

tween sin and crime; by the risk in the rem - e - dies it might pro - pose.

tween sin and crime; by the risk in the rem - e - dies it might pro - pose.

p ma intenso

17

mp

It is a fore-gone con - clu - sion that the ho - mo - sex - u - al laws will

mp

It is a fore-gone con - clu - sion that the ho - mo - sex - u - al laws will

mp

It is a fore-gone con - clu - sion that the ho - mo - sex - u - al laws will

21

p sotto voce

not be re - formed yet, but that re - form must come e - ven - tual - ly.

p sotto voce

not be re - formed yet, but that re - form must come e - ven - tual - ly.

p sotto voce

not be re - formed yet, but that re - form must come e - ven - tual - ly.

attacca

Debate

f

Stately (♩ = c. 60)

Voix Rosa

Very free, with rubato

p dolce

Semichorus

Is dergelijk gedrag schadelijk voor de samenleving? 'Tis hard to say why err-ing mor-tals

*AK LB
FP, RL*

Soprano
Alto

mf 3 3 *pp*

Choir I

7 Is such con-duct in - ju - ri - ous to so - ci - e - ty? *Ahh*

Tenor
Bass

mf 3 3 *pp*

Soprano
Alto

Choir II

Tenor
Bass

Choir II

Het is moeilijk te zeggen waarom dwalende stervelingen denken dat deze bron zuiver is en dat deze ongeschikt is om te drinken **Much faster** (♩ = c. 120)

think this fount is pure, and that un - fit to drink.

5 *f marcato*

Great na - tions have fal - len and

em - pi - res been de - stroyed

be - cause cor - rup - tion be - came wide -

NB: geen 1-37!

Is het een zaak van het privé-geweten?

28 **Tempo I** **Tempo II**
p dolce

mf 3 *pp*
 7 Is it a mat - ter for the pri - vate con - science? Ahh

mf 3 *pp*

spread.

En vertel ons, casuïsten: waren wetten bedoeld om de goddelozen of de onschuldigen te berispen?

L *specialiste in het beantwoorden van morele vraagstukke* **Tempo III** to Choir I

were stat-utes meant to scourge the wick-ed or the in - no - cent?

6!

f marcato
 These per-sons are a ma - lig-nant can-ker;

f marcato

deze personen zijn een kwaadaardige kanker, als ze zouden groeien, zou dit uiteindelijk het leven doden wat bekend staat als het normale leven.

mp ma intenso *sfz* *mf*

if al - lowed to grow it would e - ven - tual - ly kill what is known as nor - mal

mp ma intenso *sfz* *mf*

Dat kleine plekje, dat ons eiland vormt, is niet de wereld!

6

Tempo I

31 *ff* *stridente* - *schel.*

That lit - tle spot, which con - sti - tutes our isle, is not the world!

ff *stridente*

life.

G.P.

de censuur of de glimlach kunnen het verstand nooit omverwerpen

33 *pp* *sotto voce*

Its cen - sure or its smile can nev - er rea - son's fab - ric o - ver - throw.

pp *sotto voce*

*to "The Letter"
published separately*

Cypress Choral Music - CP 1898