SONG FOR ATHENE

John Tavener (1993)

Very tender, with great inner stillness and serenity
($\quad$=c.56-60)

col altri

* 'Oh' as in the 'o' of 'log'. Breathe when necessary, but not simultaneously.

Song for Athene was commissioned by the BBC. It was first performed on 22nd January 1994 at St Giles in the Barbican, London, by the BBC Singers, conducted by Simon Joly.

It was performed on the occasion of the funeral in Westminster Abbey on 6th September 1997 of Diana, Princess of Wales under the title "Alleluia. May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest". Martin Neary conducted the Westminster Abbey Choir.

COMPOSER'S NOTE

This work was written in memory of Athene Hariades, who died tragically in March 1993. Her inner and outer beauty was reflected in her love of acting, poetry, music and of the Orthodox Church. The text is taken from Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and the Orthodox Funeral Service: if the work is to be performed at the funeral of a man, the word 'servant' may be substituted for 'hand-maid' on page 2.

J.T.

Alleluia.   May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.
Alleluia.   Remember me, O Lord, when you come into your kingdom.
Alleluia.   Give rest, O Lord, to your handmaid who has fallen asleep.
Alleluia.   The Choir of Saints have found the well-spring of life and door of paradise.
Alleluia.   Life: a shadow and a dream.
Alleluia.   Weeping at the grave creates the song: Alleluia.
Alleluia.   Come, enjoy rewards and crowns I have prepared for you.

Remember me O Lord, When you come in- to your King-dom.

Oh. (Oh.)

Al-le-lu-i-a, al-le-lu-i-a.

Give rest, O Lord, to your hand-maid who has fal-len a-sleep.

B: Al - le - lu - - i - a, __ al - le - lu - i - a.

B: _ (Oh.)

S: The _ Choir of Saints have _ found the well - spring of life and _ door of pa - ra -

A: The _ Choir of Saints have _ found the well - spring of life and _ door of pa - ra -

T: The _ Choir of Saints have _ found the well - spring of life and _ door of pa - ra -

B: The _ Choir of Saints have _ found the well - spring of life and _ door of pa - ra -

B: _ (Oh.)

S: - dise. Al - le - lu - - i - a, __ al - le - lu - i - a.

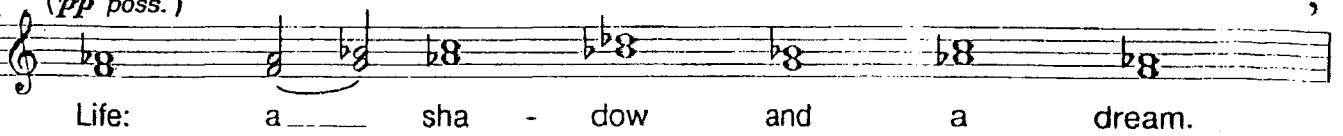A: - dise. Al - le - lu - - i - a, __ al - le - lu - i - a.

T: - dise. Al - le - lu - - i - a, __ al - le - lu - i - a.

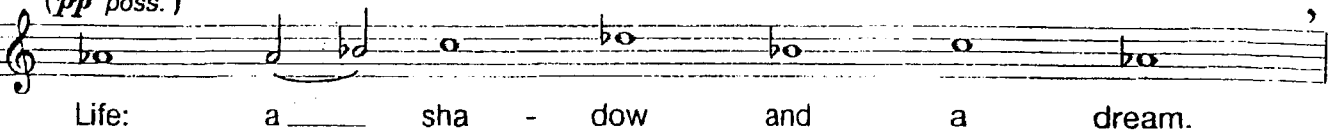B: - dise. Al - le - lu - - i - a, __ al - le - lu - i - a.
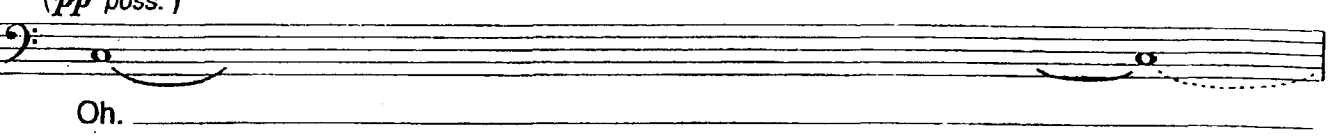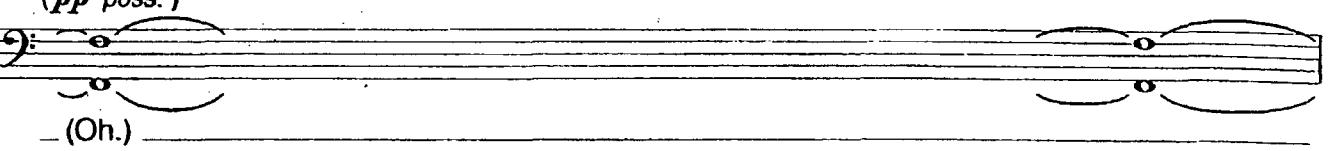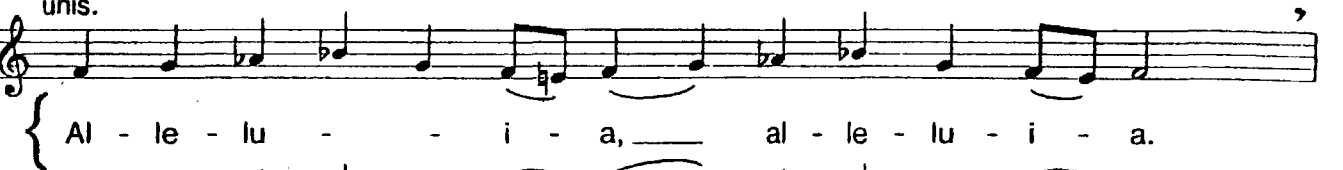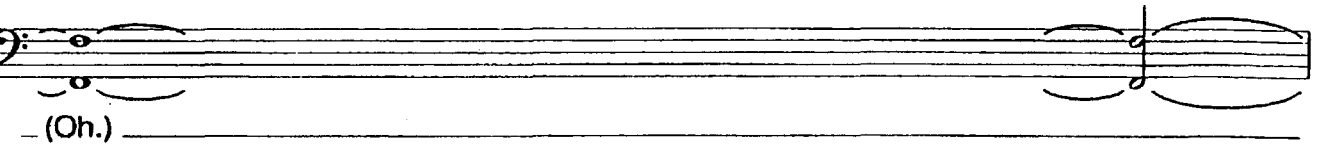
B: _ (Oh.)

S _(pp poss.)_ Life: a sha - dow and a dream.

T _(pp poss.)_ Life: a sha - dow and a dream.

B _(pp poss.)_ Oh.

B _(pp poss.)_ _(Oh.)_

S unis. Al - le - lu - i - a, al - le - lu - i - a.

B _(Oh.)_

B _(Oh.)_

S _pp_ _cresc. poco a poco_ - - - _più cresc._ - - _f_ Wee - ping at the grave cre - ates the song: Al - le - lu - i - a.

T _pp_ _cresc. poco a poco_ - - - _più cresc._ - - _f_ Wee - ping at the grave cre - ates the song: Al - le - lu - i - a.
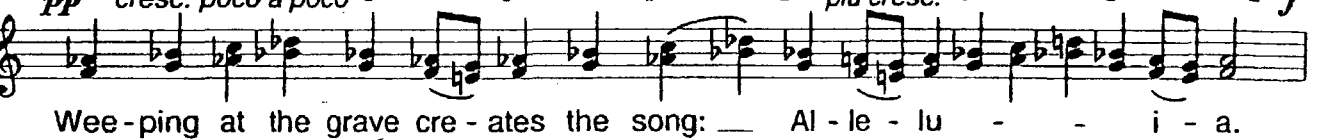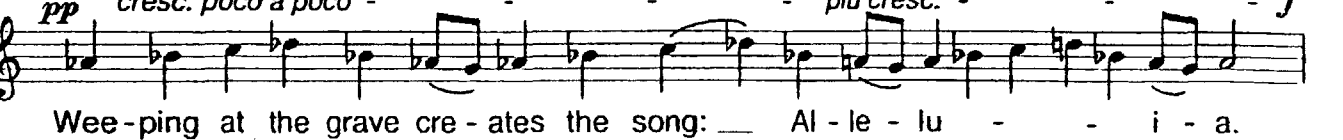
B _pp_ _cresc. poco a poco_ - - - _più cresc._ - - _f_ _(Oh.)_
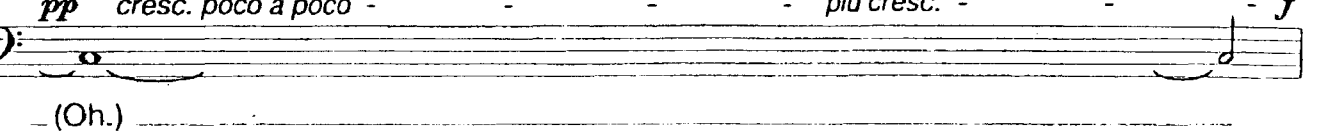
B _pp_ _cresc. poco a poco_ - - - _più cresc._ - - _f_ _(Oh.)_
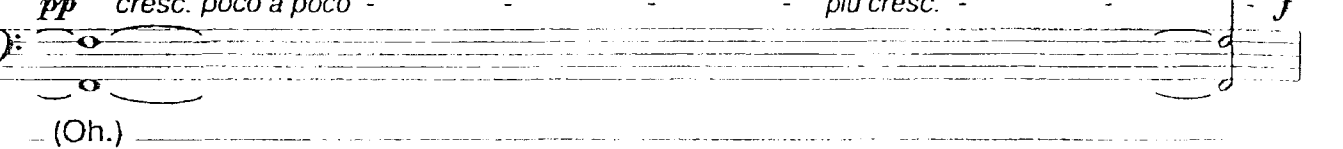
With resplendent joy in the Resurrection

S: Come, en - joy re - wards and __ crowns I have __ pre - pared ____ for __ you.

S A: Oh. ____

A: Come, en - joy re - wards and __ crowns I have __ pre - pared ____ for __ you.

T: Come, en - joy re - wards and __ crowns I have __ pre - pared ____ for __ you.

T: Oh. ____

B: Come, en - joy re - wards and __ crowns I have __ pre - pared ____ for __ you.

B: Oh. ____

B: Al - le - lu - i - a, __ al - le - lu - i - a, __ al - le - lu - i - a.

B: (Oh.) ____