

A lawyer by profession, Pearsall moved to Germany in 1825 on his doctor's advice. Initially settling at Mainz, he pursued his interest in early music and the Renaissance style, studying composition with Joseph Panny and, later, the prominent Cecilian, Kaspar Ett. He maintained contacts in England during the early 1830s, writing pieces for the Bristol Madrigal Society and J. D. Corfe, the organist of Bristol Cathedral. His popular arrangement of *In dulci jubilo* (1834) was published in Germany during this period. However, his musical interests were by no means purely antiquarian; he composed orchestral and chamber works, and even some operatic and ballet music for the private theatre he had built at his home in Karlsruhe.

Tu es Petrus is an adaptation made by Pearsall in 1854 of his own eight-part madrigal *Lay a garland* (1840). The new, sacred text was added to the music with ease, generally by altering note-values, although Pearsall did also redistribute some parts and alter a few harmonic and melodic details. The polyphonic style of the piece may owe something to the rich sonorities of the Jacobean madrigalist Ward, and perhaps also to Lotti, who similarly liked to pile up suspensions (see bars 31–4 and 44–7). To some extent, this edition is a conflation of three sources; the minor differences between them probably arose through the combination of Pearsall's failing eyesight and the haste with which the adaptation was made.

Sources: the three known MSS of *Tu es Petrus* are listed below in what appears to be their order of origin: *a*) MS 67555 from the Musik-Bibliothek at Einsiedeln; *b*) MS 67401, dated 1854, also from Einsiedeln; *c*) British Library Add. MSS 38540. No dynamics are given in the MSS. Slurs and ties are used inconsistently. Grateful thanks given to Pater Lukas Helg, Music Librarian at the Abbey of Einsiedeln.

BLAISE COMPTON

The Latin text *Tu es Petrus* (Matthew 16:18) translates as 'thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church'.

Lay a garland is also available from Oxford University Press as a separate leaflet (OCCO 48) offprinted from the Oxford Choral Classics anthology *Madrigals and Partsongs*, edited by Clifford Bartlett.

Approximate duration: 3½ minutes