

Tenor / E Major

Elaine Hugh-Jones

# High Flight

words by  
John Gillespie Magee

for Tenor Voice and Piano

## *High Flight*

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air.  
Up, up the long delirious, burning blue,  
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark, or even eagle flew -  
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
The high untresspassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.

*Pilot Officer John Gillespie Magee*

*No 412 squadron, RCAF  
Killed 11 December 1941*

# High Flight

John Gillespie Magee

Elaine Hugh-Jones

Vivo gioioso (♩ = 69)

*f* *3*

Oh! I have slipped the sur - ly bonds of earth and

Vivo gioioso (♩ = 69)

*f*

*ped.* *con ped.*

3

danced the skies on laugh - ter - sil - vered wings;

5

*mf* *3*

Sun - ward I've climbed and joined the tum - bling mirth of sun - split

*mf* *cresc.*

*ped.*

7 *f* *ff* rit. *mf* Slow

clouds, and done a hun-dred things you have not dreamed of.

*f cresc.* *ff* *mf*

Ped.

10 *mf* A tempo I

Wheeled and soared and swung

A tempo I *mp* *cresc.*

11 *mf*

High in the sun - lit si - lence,

*mf*

12 *mf*

Hov- er -ing there I've chased the shou-ting wind a-long and flung—

*mf* *cresc.*

con ped.

14 *f*

— my ea - ger craft through foot - less halls of air...

*f*

Ped.

16

Up, up the long de - lir - i - ous, bur - ning blue I've



ELAINE HUGH - JONES

b. 1927

Elaine Hugh-Jones songs have recently been performed in recital by James Gilchrist, Diana Moore and Ian Caddy. Her songs are finding an increasing audience, as singers become aware of her unique talents in setting poetry to music. She is particularly drawn to 20th century poets including Edward Thomas, Wilfred Owen and Walter de la Mare, but has also made very memorable settings of Shakespeare and American 19th century poets. Elaine has recently added settings of poems by A E Housman and Yeats to her output as well as *Reverie*, a piece for 'cello and piano.

Elaine has enjoyed a busy career as a pianist, composer and teacher. Her keyboard training was with Dr. F. W. Wadeley, Harold Craxton and Julius Isserlis. From 1947-55, Elaine was an official accompanist for children's programmes with the BBC. She combined this activity with teaching at Derby High School where she was appointed Director of Music in 1949.

From 1956 to 83, she continued her radio (and latterly, television) work for the BBC in Birmingham whilst teaching at Kidderminster High School from 1955, and later from 1963 at Malvern Girls' College and at Malvern College.

Elaine Hugh-Jones has developed her work as a composer mostly over the last 30 years. The main emphasis of her creativity has been in the vocal and choral category, in which there are to be found five song-cycles, some Church music and a number of solo songs. Much of her work has been broadcast by the BBC radio networks. She received lessons in composition from Lennox Berkeley and in orchestration from John Joubert.

The tenor and *Swingle Singer* John Potter was instrumental in promoting Elaine's songs, introducing them to soprano, Dr Jane Manning, who has performed her songs in recital and on BBC Radio 3.

Elaine's first cycle of songs, *Eight Songs of Walter de la Mare* was written over a period of 21 years, the latest, *The Raven's Tomb*, was added in 1989. The cycle has been broadcast several times on BBC Radio 3. Further cycles have followed including, *Songs of War*, settings Wilfred Owen poems and *Five Songs of Edward Thomas*. Other notable song settings include *Six Songs of RS Thomas* and *A Cornford Cycle* - settings of Edwardian poet, Frances Cornford.

A concert consisting entirely of her music was given at the Welsh College of Music and Drama in December 1995. The University of Bangor has also championed her music, in a major concert in 2012. Elaine's output is included in the archives of Welsh music in the Welsh National Library, Aberystwyth. Copies of her songs are also held at [Sound and Music UK](#).

The pianist Michael Jones has written "Hugh-Jones's songs are particularly notable for their richly imaginative piano parts allied to frequently memorable vocal lines. In recent years her piano writing has moved towards a more orchestral conception...." Many of her songs have been broadcast and during the past few years there have been performances in Switzerland, America, Norway and a growing following in her native England.

Her publishers are [OUP](#), Caradoc Music Publishing and the [Hildegard Publishing Company](#).

