

Wondrous Love
for cello and electronics

11 minutes

Brooke Joyce (2002)

Commissioned and premiered by Zöe Martlew, 2002

Program Note:

The music heard on the tape part of this piece is taken from the collection *Sacred Harp Singing*, recorded at the Alabama Sacred Harp convention in 1942 by Alan Lomax and George Pullen Jackson, and released by the Archive of Folk Culture, Library of Congress (AFS L11). The tune "Wondrous Love" continues to be a popular hymn in many American Protestant denominations. The words are attributed to Alexander Means and the music was arranged by William Walker, though the tune itself is a traditional ballad from the British Isles. This version of the hymn first appeared in *The Southern Harmony and Musical Companion*, published in 1835.

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be;
And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And through eternity, I'll sing on.