

# LOVE IS COME AGAIN

*15<sup>th</sup> century French melody*  
*arranged by Douglas Mears*  
*text by John Macleod Campbell Crum*

## ***Instrumentation***

2 Flutes  
*(2nd Flute doubling on Alto Flute)*  
Oboe  
Clarinet in B<sup>b</sup>  
2 Bassoons  
4 Horns in F  
Timpani  
Percussion  
*orchestra bells, chimes,  
triangle, suspended cymbal, large chains, mark tree,  
tam-tam, wind machine, anvils,  
low tom-tom, bass drum*  
Harp  
Celesta  
SATB Choir  
Violin I  
Violin II  
Viola  
Cello  
Contrabass

## ***Notes on the Text***

*Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*



The author of this beloved Easter hymn, John Macleod Campbell Crum, was born on 12 October 1872 in Mere Old Hall, Cheshire, and died 19 December 1958 in Farnham, Surrey. At the age of twenty-eight, he was ordained an Anglican priest, and twenty-eight years later, he was named canon of Canterbury Cathedral.

While serving the church, Crum wrote works on a wide range of topics, including biblical theology, architecture, a study of historical works, and even children's books. His work on hymns ranged from translations of Latin poems by the 4th-century poet Aurelius Clemens Prudentius to easy-to-remember children's hymns. However, of all his writings, he is best remembered for this Easter hymn, full of beautiful imagery and metaphors for Christ.

"Now the Green Blade Riseth" first appeared in hymnals in 1928 paired with the anonymous, haunting tune, "Noël Nouvelet," sometimes called "French Carol," known to have originated in France in the mid-15th century. The vivid imagery of this hymn text is biblically based on John 12:23-24: "And Jesus answered them, saying, the hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a kernel of wheat fall

into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." The connection to Easter and the resurrection of Christ is unmistakable. To all appearance, the seed is dead; it is buried as we might bury a corpse—but miraculously, come the spring, the green blade appears, and new life begins. Christ was dead, he was buried, and on the third day, he rose again.

The simple phrase "Now the green blade riseth" reminds us that Jesus is risen today just as he rose on that first Easter morning. In the third line, "Love" serves as a metaphor for Jesus. We are now reminded why Christ came to the earth in the first place: "For God so loved the world..." (John 3:16). After speaking directly about Jesus' death and resurrection, Crum turns to our life struggles. In the fourth stanza, he reminds us that no matter what we are going through, "Jesus' touch can call us back to life again."