

*4 SEASONAL RITUALS*

By Adrian Rogers

*1—AUTUMN PROCESSIONAL*

Autumn, processional  
seasonal in many guises  
is a shape changer  
makeup artist  
of extraordinarily transient dexterity,  
Andante Con Moto  
into sunset singing transitional  
blood-scarlet, yellow surprises  
turned russet, stranger  
than fictional dreaming  
diminishing, fading  
when light has a clarity of definition  
and a coolly sharpening edge

marked stretto  
when winds pressing the sedge  
and water spreading  
under sunsets flamed vermilion  
black cloud framed  
splash-paint,  
firing above gold overspreading  
pale flashing a rippling Allegro  
rough-stippling fluidity  
into impermanence  
and emotion is recollected  
not always in tranquillity

falling onto lost opportunities  
on leaves way-swept  
all over creek and river runs in spate.

Storms early and late  
scour land and water  
hurrying detritus into time's streaming  
accented  
world without end  
Presto!  
Speed frittering away  
on colour skittering themes  
before a processional ritardando  
turns recessional  
into winter sleep mode's  
harvested aftermath,  
trees skeletally exposed  
and earth bared  
after high wire balancing  
flocking migrant singers  
fly into winter's onset,

Adagio  
under a sky's lead heavy threat.

## ***2—RECESSIONAL WINTER***

Winter's slow paced, bleak  
Adagio Sostenuto for strings  
is long held

starkly overlapping chords  
with only  
descending harp notes dropping  
like frosted ice particles  
punctuating Samadhi  
interlocking a stillness out of time  
seeking no ending  
or canticles in eulogy

where memories are swords  
winter is length, shortness,  
life, death and time  
slow leaking across hemispheres  
solstice capturing  
at the Hitching Post  
a retreating sun  
turning it back upon itself  
as a new moon too weak  
against the dark  
to rouse a wind's harsh singing  
seeks out fires of festival  
stomping the boards accelerando  
distracting shadow dancing  
haunted minds  
accentuating  
a need for seasonal courtesies,  
the bowing in of longer days.

Winter's sun-fire rays  
once bleeding evening red  
flare briefly white

in cold dawn's dazzling blaze  
and icy brilliance  
mutes the heart clock's beat  
Allargando  
stiff chilled, responding  
to Tarot's death card blending  
the Reaper's symbols  
his living and dying forms  
by a sunset river circling  
eternally beyond the winter's ice,  
calling...

*'let the sleeping seed  
dying into rising life  
with the iron hard need  
of winter met be the strife  
of spring's wild onset, freed  
from time and rife  
with possibilities.'*

### **3—RONDES DU PRINTEMPS**

Spring's seasonal resonances  
green growing into light  
bursting  
and water jewel/bright swift  
flashing  
over Winter's monochrome  
out-sparking  
are breath and blood

Venus un-girdled  
Shamanic drumming  
and The Rite of Spring

*'pulse blossoming  
into thunderous flourishes  
when root stock multiplying  
into dawn light cherishes  
the sounding Word, ringing  
the changes...'*

a rondo pianistic finale  
beginning the unpredictable  
bud into pink/white blooming  
briefly flirting colour singing  
Allegro Vivace  
fulfilling the urge  
and sun powered surge  
over water, sound and silence  
drum caught  
lassoed,  
poco rallentando...

*'ringing the changes  
when a seed self nourishes  
the living exchanges  
burgeoning from a hidden  
thirst for maturation  
first into Wisdom.'*

Spring will down-wind

copper remain in the soil  
Venus testify  
in star shaped wanderings  
Summer reap her seasonal spoils  
Vulcan hold the world  
in his toils, and light's  
expanding scope around  
a Temple's daisy-chain like  
dancing unity  
anchor hope, when the Temple  
of the few becomes  
the Temple of the many.

**4—*SARABAND OF SUMMER***

Love beneath the summer stars  
between above  
and below  
coordinating with  
the River in the Sky,  
celebrations  
heat exhaling from embodied earth  
into a cooling night  
when chanting slows the steps  
Andante Molto  
of a ritual Saraband

liturgies of heart and hand  
of heated blood

drawn down  
into a solstice passionless  
by step and swing  
a poise distilled  
before the annealing drought  
of long-lit days

when green in many shaded rays  
primal deceiver  
down-weighs ascension's  
evidence  
of unseen presences  
hopes breathed  
out of a land to beige attenuated  
and from the stars.

Light and shadow bars  
way-goers  
by black towered summer storms  
wet and dry  
dark, light, fitfully contrasting  
clarity and haze,  
the Grim Reaper's contradiction  
death with life  
and seeds of everlastingness.

Within the consciousness  
of passing days  
beyond our solstice time  
'tempo rubato'

shadows the singing  
echoing a summer's ending,  
maturation  
in the lees of all our knowing  
a glass turned down  
recessional  
and harvest's ceremonial closing.

**Bio**

**Adrian Cedric Rogers** was born in England, trained as a teacher in Ireland, teaching in that country, then in Scotland, The Shetland Islands, England, Australia, and Papua New Guinea, before retiring in 2005, thereafter devoting much of my time to writing. He has six fantasy novels in print, four published by Double Dragon in Canada, and two by Mountain Mist in Australia. He also has two novels issued (also by Double Dragon) as e-books. He has contributed poetry, articles, and short stories to numerous periodicals and anthologies. He also has three collections of poetry published by Ginninderra Press, Port Adelaide, Australia, the latest being launched on 20<sup>th</sup> November.