

Hilary Tann, “The Story” from Melangell Variations (2018)

Melangell Variations was commissioned by baritone Jeremy Huw Williams and the Welsh Chamber Orchestra and premiered May 18, 2018 at the Beaumaris Festival. The words of Gwyneth Lewis capture the ancient story of a young female hermit whose grace and piety led her to shelter a hare in her robes while keeping a hunter’s hounds at bay. Melangell would eventually become the abbess of a sanctuary, now a place of pilgrimage. As a composer I have been inspired by poetry, nature, and spiritual values. In *Melangell Variations* all three elements find a home.

Welsh-born composer, **Hilary Tann** lives in the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains in upstate New York where she is the John Howard Payne Professor of Music at Union College, Schenectady. She was guest Composer-in-Residence at the 2011 Eastman School of Music Women in Music Festival and 2013 Women Composers Festival of Hartford and was appointed Composer-in-Residence for the Welsh Music Center for 2015. Praised for its lyricism and formal balance, her music is influenced by a strong identification with the natural world. Her music is widely performed and recorded. Read more at hilarytann.com.