

Anchoress

Closed within a breath

her sin

a countryside hollow of moss her fingers close round

the *Book of Hours*

held open on her lap

margins

full of

and swirls

she plays its

keep of her

the leaves

in this cell

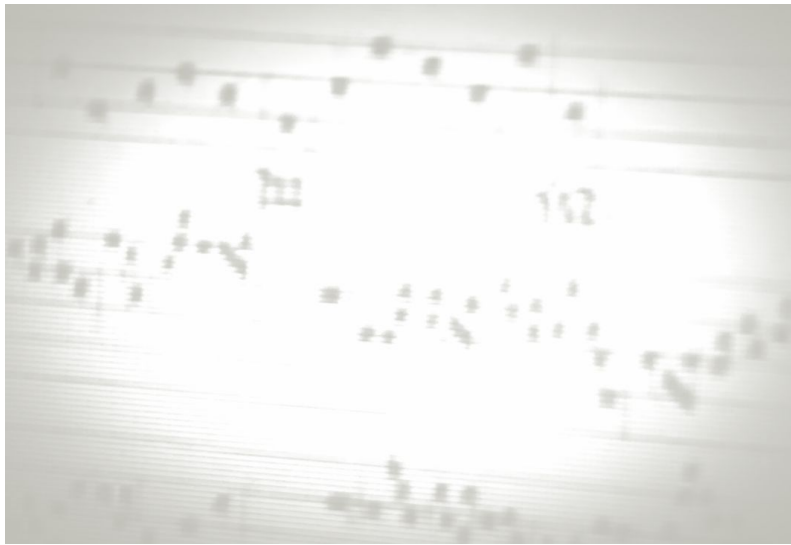
the blackest

where owls

and

wander in

the sanctuary



flowers prayers

music in the
mind

crisp her heart

cold colder than

medieval night

and moon

those who

grey outside in

of garden

green arches holly oak beech take you with her to the centre

the heart that never stops to the garden that closes round around her heart and yours and takes us to

that beat at its very centre where the roses and the sacred arts and the woman looking out at the

winter that has gone with the whitest snow turns to her new manuscript begins to script the notes

black upon its stave *l'amour*

l'amour de moi

L'Amour de Moi, usually translated as 'My Lady's Garden', a C15 French Chanson.

Biography

Julie Sampson's poetry is widely published, most recently, or forthcoming, in *Shearsman*, *Molly Bloom*, *Allegro*, *Dawntreader*, *Ink Sweat & Tears*, *The Journal*, *Noon*, *Poetry Space*, *Algebra of Owls*, *The Lake* and *Amethyst Review*. Her work has been shortlisted or placed in several competitions, including *erbacce*, *Wells Festival of Literature Poetry Competition* and *The Page is Printed*. Her poetry collection *Tessitura* was published, in 2014 (Shearsman Press) and a non-fiction manuscript was short-listed for *The Impress Prize*, in 2015.

See <https://www.juliesampson.com/>