

TED JEAN

Byrd

When his talent soared
beyond Tallis, his master,
William was seventeen.

His consort cast the viol
to oppose the human reed,
an unheard-of violation.

When he discovered sex,
his married voices
descended to heaven plain.

His motet in five parts
was new across all creation.
Stone chapels stunned.

At his Mass, his rapt Queen
stayed her lethal hand.