

signum
CLASSICS

GEOFF STEPHENS

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

50TH ANNIVERSARY EP



The Boy Choristers of Winchester Cathedral

Andrew Lumsden *piano*

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50TH ANNIVERSARY EP

1	Winchester Cathedral 50th Anniversary Arrangement	Geoff Stephens, arr. Lumsden	[2.40]
2	Somewhere Over the Rainbow	Harold Arlen, arr. Lumsden	[3.22]
3	Climb Every Mountain	Rodgers and Hammerstein arr. Lumsden	[2.23]
Soloist: Alexander Hobbs			
Total timings:			[8.26]

THE BOY CHORISTERS OF WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL
ANDREW LUMSDEN PIANO

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INTRODUCTION BY GEOFF STEPHENS

It was an honour to receive a letter from The Very Revd. James Atwell, Dean of Winchester Cathedral, seeking permission to use my 50-year-old song for a new recording by The Cathedral Choristers. The Dean also sought to “tweak” the lyrics to make the song more in keeping with its new usage – i.e. to celebrate the forthcoming 50th Anniversary of the original recording and to present the Cathedral as “a beacon of light” in the dark days through which we live.

I replied to both requests with unalloyed pleasure – furthermore deciding that a complete re-write of the lyrics would be in everyone’s best interests.

My wife Pam and I were further thrilled to be invited to the recording in the Cathedral itself – a rare occasion indeed as we watched and listened to Director of Music Andrew Lumsden weave his musical magic with his stunning new arrangement of *Winchester Cathedral*, beautifully performed by the Cathedral Choristers.

There was more work to be done of course – editing and mixing *Winchester* and the other two tracks recorded that same evening. The “heavy lifting” that ensued over the following days (with questionable contributions from yours truly) was done by the indefatigable Paul Wing, ably aided and abetted by Steve Long of Signum Records and his recording engineers.

I particularly wish every success to this new Signum EP, with special thanks to Paul and The Dean for setting the ball rolling.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL CHORISTERS

Charlie Anstee
Ben Carriett
Timothy Hamlyn
Alexander Hobbs
Kit Hobbs
Jasper Jones
Kieran Little

Henry Liu
Rory Mackie
Alexander Mani
Thomas Nelson
James Phipps
Harry Pressland
Sebastian Robertson

Thomas Sparkhall
Orlando Tavener
Joshua Thompson
Angus Williams
Michael Wimbush
James Woolman



The Boy Choristers of Winchester Cathedral with their Music Director Andrew Lumsden (far left) and his assistant George Castle with organ scholar Timothy Parsons.

Winchester Cathedral has a long tradition of training choristers, and the choir is rightly regarded throughout the world as one of the great cathedral choirs of England. Originally, the boy choristers were part of the great Benedictine Priory of Winchester associated with the pilgrim Shrine of St. Swithun. Since the Reformation, they have been an integral part of the services at this thriving diocesan Cathedral.

Boys audition for the choir when they are 8 years old, and the first year in the choir is a probationary year, during which the chorister learns how to sight read music and becomes familiar with some of the vast repertoire of the sung liturgy. At the beginning of their second year, boys usually become full choristers, singing at evensong and Sunday services on a regular basis, as well as taking part in the major festivals of Easter and Christmas.

All the boy choristers are educated at The Pilgrims' School, the Cathedral choir school, where they lead a challenging but rewarding life with a full schedule. Choir practice takes place daily, and each day the boys also have instrumental practice at the school, usually on two instruments. Many choristers gain valuable music scholarships to senior schools.

Quite apart from their academic studies and regular Cathedral services, the Choristers are involved in radio and television broadcasts, CD recordings and concerts. They have taken part in both the 2014 and 2015 BBC Prom concerts.

ANDREW LUMSDEN

Andrew took up his current appointment as Organist and Director of Music at Winchester Cathedral in September 2002. Prior to that, he was Organist and Master or the Chorister at Lichfield Cathedral, and Sub-Organist at Westminster Abbey.

Under his directorship, the Choir records and broadcast frequently. For the past two seasons, the boy and girl choristers have taken part in BBC Proms seasons, singing with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir under Sir Simon Rattle in 2014 and with the Danish

National Orchestra and Fabio Luisi in 2015. The Choir's latest CD of music for the season of Remembrance, recorded by the boy and girl choristers and lay clerks, was released in 2014 and received favourable reviews.

Andrew continues to give organ recitals in this country and abroad, and as conductor of the Waynflete Singers, he works regularly with major orchestras including Florilegium, the English Chamber Orchestra and the London Mozart Players. In 2015, he spent two months in Australia and New Zealand, giving a number of organ recitals and masterclasses and directing choirs.



The Boy Choristers of Winchester Cathedral with Geoff Stephens (center) and Andrew Lumsden (right).

Recorded in Winchester Cathedral on the 9th of November 2015.

Producer – Paul Wing

Recording Engineer – Mike Hatch

Recording Assistant and Editor – George Collins

Cover Image and Photos of Winchester Cathedral – Shutterstock

Design and Artwork – Woven Design www.wovendesign.co.uk

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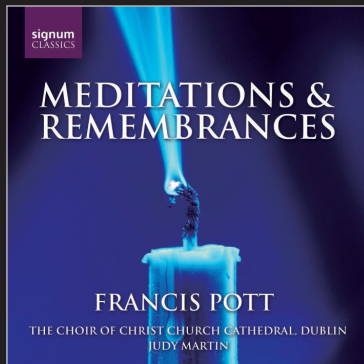
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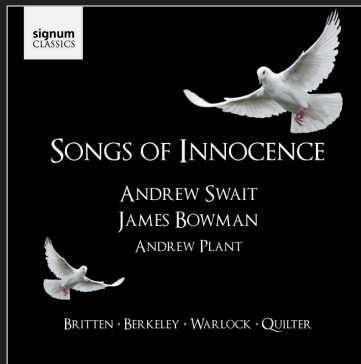
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