

The NAXOS logo is located in the top left corner. It consists of the word "NAXOS" in a white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a blue square. Above the text, there is a white graphic of a classical building facade with columns.

NAXOS

Patrick
HAWES

Revelation

Beatitudes

Quanta Qualia

The Elora Singers
Noel Edison

Patrick
HAWES
(b. 1958)

Revelation (2016)	25:58
1 Prologue: This Prophecy	2:14
2 Coming with the Clouds	3:32
3 From the Throne	3:05
4 Worthy is the Lamb	2:42
5 A Great and Wondrous Sign	2:43
6 Fallen is Babylon the Great	2:51
7 Hallelujah (The Marriage of the Lamb)	3:28
8 I Saw a New Heaven	2:41
9 Epilogue: The Alpha and the Omega	2:42
Beatitudes (2016)	21:40
10 The Poor in Spirit	2:32
11 Those Who Mourn	2:08
12 The Meek	2:20
13 Those who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness	2:58
14 The Merciful	3:19
15 The Pure in Heart	2:32
16 The Peacemakers	2:38
17 Those who are Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake	3:13
18 The Word (2016)	3:09
19 Peace Beyond Thought (2016)	1:51
20 Let Us Love (2016)	3:22
21 The Lord's Prayer (from <i>The Edenham Eucharist</i>) (2016)	1:21
22 Be Still (2016)	2:12
23 Quanta Qualia (2014)	4:33

The Elora Singers

Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass
Katy Clark	Julia Barber	Chris Fischer	James Bourne
Rebecca Genge	Kirsten Fielding	Robert Kinar	Michael Cressman
Teresa Mahon	Claudia Lemcke	Steve Surian	Paul Grambo
Lindsay McIntyre	Nellie Scholtes	Andrew Walker	Richard Hrytzak
Julia Morson	Christina	Lawrie McEwan	David Roth
(soloist on 23)	Stelmacovich		
Katherine Napiwotzki			
Kate Wright			

Patrick Hawes (b. 1958)

Choral Music



Patrick Hawes is an English composer who has made his mark as a torchbearer of the English musical tradition. He is best known for writing the *Highgrove Suite* for HRH Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, for being Composer-in-Residence at the UK's largest biggest classical music station, Classic FM, and for the Number One album *Angel*. Among others, he has written for Voces8, the Choir of New College Oxford, Julian Lloyd Webber, and Hayley Westenra on albums that have all reached Number One in the classical charts. Patrick is currently writing for The King's Singers and working on his biggest project to date – a choral symphony entitled *The Great War Symphony* – to be premiered in its entirety in the Royal Albert Hall 2018. www.patrickhawes.com

I have always felt that *The Book of Revelation* lends itself to musical interpretation. Its imagery and powerful messages of salvation and judgement are full of inspiration to the artist. *The Beatitudes*, of course, are much more gentle but no less powerful, and Christ's words of comfort form the perfect partner to the *Revelation* text. It is my hope that, together with the standalone pieces on this recording, they offer a new way of exploring key sentences from the *New Testament* and a means of refreshing the soul. I am so

grateful to Noel Edison and The Elora Singers who, through their musical expertise and commitment to my musical style, have brought these works alive.

Patrick Hawes

Revelation

The Book of Revelation is full of bizarre imagery alternating between darkness and light. The texts used mirror the structure in the Bible: a *Prologue* and *Epilogue* form outer pillars between which seven pieces (a significant number in *Revelation*) depict some of the main scenes in St John's prophecy.

This Prophecy introduces the collection in a calm and prayerful manner with its quasi-plainsong lines and quiet sense of expectancy. In contrast, *Coming with the Clouds* reaches into the apocalyptic nature of *Revelation* with the antiphonal use of the choir and moments of intense climax. *From the Throne* uses more biting textures to portray flashes of lightning and peels of thunder, creating moments of excitement and awe as we gaze upon the throne. *Worthy is the Lamb* returns to a single-choir format and invokes a peaceful intimacy as the listener is drawn into the deep pain of looking upon 'the lamb who was slain'. The Marian references in *A Great and Wondrous Sign* give rise to a piece which is pure and devotional in character. *Fallen is Babylon the Great* uses falling choral phrases and dissonant harmonies to create a feeling of falling into the abyss. Contrast follows with the jubilant fanfare rhythms of *Hallelujah* where interaction between the two choirs creates an increasing sense of majesty. As John gazes upon 'a new heaven and a new earth', so *I Saw a New Heaven* returns to intense prayerfulness, providing hope and security. The *Epilogue* views *The Alpha and the Omega* first as something too wonderful to bear, and then as the most magnificent revelation of all, before the hushed, deep chords which speak of the end of all things.

Beatitudes

The eight *Beatitude* verses of *St Matthew's Gospel* are some of Christ's most comforting words. The recurrence of the word 'blessed' makes for a unified collection of pieces – closely linked but each with its own character.

The Poor in Spirit introduces the work in a mystical vein with its minor key and wave-like piano patterns. *Those Who Mourn* uses a falling piano melody and off-beat choir rhythms to evoke a sense of sighing and grief. *The Meek* is full of optimism and gradually builds to an intense climax with Christ's promise that 'they shall inherit the earth'. *Those who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness* invokes a pulsating and insistent rhythm which underpins the message that those who hunger will be satisfied, and ends with a short piano postlude depicting an air of contentment. *The Merciful* uses dotted rhythms and rich choral harmonies, especially in the louder sections, to create the atmosphere of battle as Christ fights to offer mercy to those who are merciful themselves. In contrast, *The Pure in Heart* has uncomplex harmonies, with the choir delivering the words in a straightforward but emotive manner. The opening piano chords in *The Peacemakers* are almost floating, and prominence is given to the innocent soprano voices before a majestic section for full choir depicting the sons of God. *Those who are Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake* draws the *Beatitudes* to a conclusion by referring to fragments from earlier sections, before the choir finally draws us towards the kingdom of heaven.

The opening words of *St John's Gospel* used in *The Word* reach back to the beginning of creation, and the music is therefore mystical and subdued until the words 'in him was life' – after which the feeling is one of confidence in the light of Christ.

Peace Beyond Thought asks the listener to dwell on 'all that is pure'. Thus the music develops from simple unison singing through to rich harmonic textures, with restrained dynamics throughout.

The piano comes to the fore in *Let Us Love*. A lilting melody is introduced against which the independent choral parts call for love to pervade all that we do. A defiant middle section proclaiming that 'no fear be known to us' creates cohesion and contrast.

This simple version of *The Lord's Prayer* is taken from *The Edenham Eucharist* – a communion setting written for parishes belonging to the composer's brother Andrew. Some unexpected key changes help to sustain the momentum although the overriding approach is one of straightforward harmonies and rhythms.

Be Still is a setting of the well-known phrase from *Psalms* 46. The piano's repeated chordal patterns flow gently throughout, and the long legato choral lines help the listener drift into a world of peace and beauty.

Quanta Qualia

This piece had such a profound impact on the audience at the 2015 Elora Festival that the choir felt that they really wanted to record it as a bonus track for this album.

The words express a heartfelt longing for the joys of heaven – a happiness to be shared in a future moment of meeting. The ecstasy of this moment is certainly underlined by the soprano solo over the rich saxophone and vocal accompaniment. The repetition of key words *mane, gaudia* and *conventus* deepens the intensity of the yearning for bliss.

The world première performances of *Revelation* and *Beatitudes* were given by The Elora Singers during the Elora Festival, Elora, Ontario, Canada, on 21st July, 2016.

Andy Berry

Revelation

1 Prologue: This Prophecy (*Revelation 1:3 ESV*)
Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

2 Coming with the Clouds (*Revelation 1:7 ESV*)
Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.

3 From the Throne (*Revelation 4:5 ESV*)
From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. Before the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.

4 Worthy is the Lamb (*Revelation 5:12 ESV*)
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!

5 A Great and Wondrous Sign (*Revelation 12:1 ESV*)
A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head.

6 Fallen is Babylon the Great (*Revelation 18:2 ESV*)
Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.

7 Hallelujah (The Marriage of the Lamb) (*Revelation 19:6-7 ESV*)
Hallelujah! For our Lord God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and his Bride has made herself ready.

8 I Saw a New Heaven (*Revelation 21:1 ESV*)
I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.

9 Epilogue: The Alpha and the Omega (*Revelation 22:13 ESV*)
"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

The Beatitudes

(*Matthew 5: 3-10 ESV*)

10 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

12 Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

13 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

14 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

15 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

16 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

17 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

18 The Word

(*John 1: 1-5 ESV*)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made

that was made.
In him was life,
and the life was the light of men.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

19 Peace Beyond Thought
(Words by Andrew Hawes based on *Philippians 4*)

All that is pure,
And for beauty adored:
On these things
Dwell.
Hold
In your heart
All goodness
And truth,
And that peace
Beyond thought
Shall console you.

20 Let Us Love
(Words by Andrew Hawes based on *John 1: 4*)

Friends
Let us love.
As we are loved:
Let us love.

Let love
Be complete
In us:
Let no fear
Be known
To us.

As we are loved
Let us love.

21 The Lord's Prayer
(from *The Edenham Eucharist*)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

22 Be Still
(*Psalms 46 v.10 ESV*)

Be still,
and know
that I am God.

23 Quanta Qualia
(Words by Andrew Hawes)

O anima mea
Mane!
O quanta qualia
Conventus gaudia
Erunt.

O my soul
Wait!
O how great and how wonderful
the joys of meeting
will be.

Leslie De'Ath

Leslie De'Ath is involved in a wide variety of musical endeavours, including concerto appearances, chamber music and duo piano recitals; he has been the orchestral keyboard player with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony since 1980. In 1979 he joined the faculty of Wilfrid Laurier University, where he directs the opera programme as well as teaching studio piano and lecturing in collaborative piano.



John Johnson

JUNO Award-winner John Johnson is one of the most in-demand musicians in Toronto. A highly-respected player, John frequently appears as a guest artist with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

The Elora Singers



The Elora Singers, formerly known as the Elora Festival Singers, founded in 1980 by Artistic Director Noel Edison, is an all-professional GRAMMY® and JUNO-nominated chamber choir known for its rich, warm sound and clarity of texture. This is achieved by holding annual auditions for current and aspiring choristers, which fosters and ensures the preservation and integrity of this trademark sound. The Elora Singers is also renowned for its commitment to Canadian repertoire and for its collaborations with other artists from across Canada and around the world. Through its regular concert series, recordings, broadcasts and touring, The Elora Singers is widely praised as one of the finest chamber choirs in Canada, contributing to the musical life of our local communities throughout the country as well as on the international stage. The choir is the principal choral ensemble of the Elora Festival and, since 1997, has been the professional core of the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir.

Noel Edison



Noel Edison is well established as one of the most versatile and charismatic conductors in the world today. As conductor and artistic director of two world-class Canadian ensembles, the large-scale Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and the chamber-sized Elora Singers, Edison is widely recognized for his skilful interpretive work with both choir and orchestra. A native of Toronto, Edison moved to the scenic village of Elora where he co-founded the Elora Festival in 1979 and, a year later, The Elora Singers as its choir-in-residence. Since 1984 Edison has served as Artistic Director of the Elora Festival as well as Organist and Choirmaster of one of the few all-professional church choirs in Canada at the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Elora. In 2002 the University of Guelph conferred upon Edison the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Music. In 2009 he was appointed to the Order of Ontario, the province's highest honour, and in 2012 he received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal. Edison records regularly for Naxos and his extensive discography includes works by Arvo Pärt, Francis Poulenc and Healey Willan, the Berlioz *Requiem*, the JUNO-nominated *I Saw Eternity*, and the GRAMMY®-nominated *Eric Whitacre: Choral Music*.

Patrick Hawes has emerged in recent years as one of England's most popular and inspirational choral composers. 'The nine pieces that form *Revelation* are the result of my deep love of the *Book of Revelation* and its powerful imagery. Where else do you get thunder, lightning and demons as well as a gentle lamb? Another of my favourite New Testament texts is the *Beatitudes* from *St Matthew's Gospel* – these are, quite simply, some of Christ's most comforting and beautiful words.' *Quanta Qualia* had such a profound impact on the audience at the 2015 Elora Festival that the choir insisted on its inclusion in this recording.

**Patrick
HAWES**
(b. 1958)

1-9	Revelation (2016)*	25:58	21	The Lord's Prayer	
10-17	Beatitudes (2016)*	21:40		(from <i>The Edenham</i>	
18	The Word (2016)*	3:09		<i>Eucharist</i>) (2016)*	1:21
19	Peace Beyond		22	Be Still (2016)*	2:12
	Thought (2016)*	1:51			
20	Let Us Love (2016)*	3:22	23	Quanta Qualia (2014)	4:33

***WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDING**

Leslie De'Ath, Piano **10-17 20 22** • **John Johnson, Alto saxophone** **23**

The Elora Singers • Noel Edison

Noel Edison and The Elora Singers gratefully acknowledge
the generous support of Ellen Pearson, sole sponsor of this recording.

A detailed track list can be found on page 2 of the booklet. The sung texts can be found
inside the booklet, and may also be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/573720.htm.

Recorded at St Joseph's Church, Fergus, Ontario, Canada, on 1st and 2nd August, 2016.

Producers: Bonnie Silver and Norbert Kraft • Engineer: Norbert Kraft • Editor: Bonnie Silver
Publishers: Walton Music (tracks 1-17); Hawes Music (tracks 18-22); Novello & Co. (track 23)
Booklet notes: Andy Berry • Cover image by Almazova (123rf.com)