



FOR THE WINGS OF A DOVE
MUSIC OF SUPPLICATION AND HOPE

THE CHOIR OF QUEENS' COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE
SILAS WOLLSTON



ORCHID CLASSICS

FOR THE WINGS OF A DOVE

MUSIC OF SUPPLICATION AND HOPE

War & Peace

- | | | |
|---|---|------|
| 1 | For lo, I raise up (1914)
Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924) | 7:54 |
| 2 | Peace I leave with you (1958)
Knut Nystedt (b.1915) | 2:42 |

Out of the deep

- | | | |
|---|--|------|
| 3 | My soul oppressed with care and grief (1588)
William Byrd (c.1540–1623) | 2:15 |
| 4 | Behold, thou hast made my days (1618)
Orlando Gibbons (1583–1625) (ed. D Pinto, Fretwork Editions, 2003) | 3:45 |
| 5 | Turn unto the Lord (1622)
Thomas Tomkins (1572–1656) | 2:36 |
| 6 | Sonata No.3/i for organ (1845): 'Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir'
Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847) | 7:58 |

Hear my prayer

- | | | |
|----|--|-------|
| 7 | Hear my prayer (c.1685)
Henry Purcell (1659–1695) | 2:07 |
| 8 | Hide not thy face (2014)
Silas Wollston (b.1971) | 5:20 |
| 9 | Hear my prayer (1844)
Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847) | 10:33 |
| 10 | Ave Maria, Ave Maris Stella (1933–4)
Jean Langlais (1907–1991) | 7:04 |

For ever at rest

- | | | |
|----|--|------|
| 11 | Man that is born of a woman (c.1845)
Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810–1876) (ed. D. Brook-Davies) | 3:51 |
| 12 | Thou knowest Lord the secrets of our hearts (1695)
Henry Purcell (1659–1695) (ed. C. Bartlett) | 2:23 |
| 13 | The Lord is my Shepherd (1975)
Lennox Berkeley (1903–1989) | 4:40 |

Total time **63:05**

**THE CHOIR OF QUEENS' COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE
CONDUCTED BY SILAS WOLLSTON**

This recording brings together diverse music from many centuries. The texts of all the pieces express the suffering of the oppressed and the hope for peace, and the majority of them are taken from the Old Testament Book of Psalms.

Stanford's great late anthem **For lo, I raise up** was written within months of the outbreak of World War I. Using the words of the Old Testament prophet Habakkuk, Stanford expresses his horror at the violence and destruction of war, and at the centre of the work proclaims 'We shall not die', a message of defiance that leads to a hopeful conclusion. In the final phrase, however – 'Let all the earth keep silence' – the Lord is portrayed as judge of all, and the final bleak organ notes seem to portray something of the uncertainty of the last months of 1914 – with the destiny of so many held 'in the balance'.

The promise of peace is expressed in the Norwegian composer Knut Nystedt's 1958 motet **Peace I leave with you**, which sets words of Christ from John's Gospel – the only New Testament text on this recording. Nystedt's use of strong tonal centres (first C sharp minor, then E flat major) grounds the work, ameliorating the effect of the strong dissonances, and creating a sense of security and comfort with the words 'Let not your heart be troubled'.

William Byrd's **My soul oppressed** sets verses from a metrical version of Psalm 119; it was published in the collection *Psalmes, Sonnets and Songs* (1588). Byrd designates the 2nd voice (sung here by Altos) as the 'first singing part', suggesting that this five-part work originated as a setting for solo voice and four viols. This music was intended for performance at home, possibly as part of private domestic devotions.

Behold, thou hast made my days by Orlando Gibbons was 'made at the entreaty' of Anthony Maxey in the week of his death in 1618. Maxey was a royal chaplain, and from 1612, Dean of Windsor, a position to which Gibbons, as organist of the Chapel Royal, would have been answerable. The work is an example of the 'verse' anthem, in which solos ('verses') alternate with choruses. In this recording, the five-part texture is realised by just eight singers, with two singers each on the highest part and on the two lowest parts, and single voices – high tenors – on the two 'Contratenor' parts: this performance practice reflects information found in surviving partbooks and contemporary descriptions of voice types, such as Charles Butler's *Principles of Music* (1636). The use of a smaller, 'consort' choir in this work and in the psalm setting by Byrd reflects the special form of 'consort' evensong devised by Silas Wollston and promoted at Queens' College during 2013-14.

Much of the music of Thomas Tomkins harks back to the style of Tallis and Byrd, whose music he no doubt sang as a child. The anthem **Turn unto the Lord our God**, published in 1622, is one such 'Tudor' work: it opens tentatively with the unfolding of an exquisite web of six-part counterpoint, before a bolder musical figure emerges with a message of hope – that truth will endure 'from generation to generation' – repeated statements of which become ever more emphatic and confident.

Both of the works by Mendelssohn on this recording were composed at the request of Englishmen. The *Six Grand Sonatas for the Organ* (1845) were commissioned by the publishers Coventry and Hollier, riding the wave of Mendelssohn's popularity as an organist during his visits to Britain. His recitals included improvisations – famed for their variety and novelty – and performances of the works of J.S. Bach, and both elements are reflected in his organ sonatas. The majestic, confident opening of **Sonata No.3** is followed by a double fugue in the minor mode – the first theme angular and supplicatory, the second theme flowing and impassioned – and at the combination of the two themes, the pedals bring in the great Lutheran hymn tune 'Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir' ('Out of the deep do I cry unto Thee'), a Bachian masterstroke that brings the fugue to its dramatic conclusion and a return of the music from the opening.

Mendelssohn never performed his organ sonatas in England. At the time of his first visit in 1829, English organs reflected an insular tradition that differed greatly from organ building on the continent: they had a very heavy keyboard action and no full pedal board. However, the increased awareness and interest in the organ music of Bach generated by Mendelssohn through his organ recitals contributed to a rapid change in organ design and construction during the 1840s, as English organ builders took inspiration from the instruments of the German Baroque.

The genesis of Mendelssohn's great anthem **Hear my prayer** is closely bound up with this crucial moment in the history of English organ building. On 30 September 1840 in the City of London church of St Peter's, Cornhill, Mendelssohn came to test a new German-style organ with full pedal board designed by his friend, the organist Henry Gauntlett, and built by William Hill. A unique record of this private event survives in the organ loft of the church to this day: it is a copy of the theme from Bach's Passacaglia BWV582 in Mendelssohn's hand, signed by Mendelssohn. The autograph hunter on this occasion was the church's organist, 20-year-old Elizabeth Mounsey, a former child

prodigy and one of the first organists in England (along with Gauntlett) to learn to play with pedals.

The significance of this occasion to the creation of 'Hear my prayer' is that in addition to Gauntlett, Hill and Mounsey, a fourth auditor was present that day: the chemist, painter and librettist William Bartholomew. This was the occasion on which Bartholomew met Mendelssohn for the first time, since in a letter of 24 October 1841 he wrote: 'do you remember the day of your performance on St. Peter's Organ, Cornhill, writing a Canon in pencil for a lady, which was bathed with wine in the vestry to fix its traces? – this was done by me'.

Thus began a friendship and working relationship between Mendelssohn and Bartholomew that culminated in the triumph of the first performance of *Elijah* in 1846, for which Bartholomew created an English libretto at incredible speed. Initially, Bartholomew had aspirations to be Mendelssohn's opera librettist, but all the texts he sent were declined by the composer. However, Bartholomew's extraordinary skill as a translator, evidenced by his English version of Spohr's opera *Jessonda*, did attract Mendelssohn's attention; a relationship of mutual respect developed between the two men and Bartholomew created English versions of many works by Mendelssohn. In agreeing to compose 'Hear my prayer' Mendelssohn fulfilled Bartholomew's greatest wish – to have his own poetry set to the music of his dear friend. The text of this 'sacred solo' is Bartholomew's own paraphrase of verses from Psalm 55.

The first performance took place on 8 January 1845 in the medieval Great Hall of Crosby Hall. Built in 1466 by the wool merchant Sir John Crosby, this grand medieval palace in Bishopsgate had by the 19th century become a historic anomaly in the commercial heart of the City of London. Just three rooms of the original building remained in 1841 when restoration work was undertaken in preparation for a series of concerts organised by Ann Mounsey, a former pupil of Wesley and Attwood and the teacher and older sister of Elizabeth Mounsey. At the first performance of 'Hear my prayer', Ann Mounsey played the organ accompaniment on the new organ by Henry Cephias Lincoln, and the soprano solo was sung by Elizabeth Rainforth. The room in which this performance took place still survives: in 1910 it was relocated to Cheyne Walk in Chelsea, where it now forms part of the London house of Christopher Moran.

The words **Hear my prayer** are equally familiar to modern audiences in Henry Purcell's masterly eight-part setting, the text in this case taken from Psalm 102. Dating from around 1685, this piece appears to be the opening section of a larger work that Purcell did not complete: in the autograph manuscript, the elaborate flourish that usually marks the end of a piece is missing, and it is followed by a number of blank pages. **Hide not thy face** by Silas Wollston, composed in 2014 especially for this recording, is a companion piece to Purcell's 'Hear my prayer' that continues with the text of Psalm 102 where Purcell left off. Initially Purcell's idiom is adopted before the music breaks out stylistically as the entreaties of the supplicant become evermore desperate. In the central section of the work, the psalmist expresses a profound sense of isolation, symbolised by the pelican, the owl and the sparrow (most likely a blue thrush), solitary birds that still inhabit the deserts of the Middle East.

The idea of writing a companion piece to a work by Purcell has a historical precedent in the works of Mendelssohn's English contemporary, Samuel Sebastian Wesley. At the end of the score of **Man that is born of a woman**, composed in the mid-1840s, Wesley states that his piece is intended to precede Purcell's **Thou knowest Lord, the secrets of our hearts**, an anthem of simple dignity that was composed in 1695 for the funeral of Queen Mary. While Wesley adopts many of the rhythmic and harmonic features of Purcell's style, his own distinctive musical language is unmistakable, as at the phrase 'never continueth in one stay'. Wesley was himself following the precedent of William Croft, who incorporated the same Purcell setting into his version of the burial service published in 1724. The pairing of Wesley and Purcell's music found on this recording was performed in St George's Chapel, Windsor, at the elaborate memorial service for Queen Victoria in 1902.

Ave Maria, Ave Maris Stella is a prayer of supplication to the Virgin. The setting for organ by Jean Langlais is the first of three *Paraphrases Grégoriennes* composed in Paris between 1933 and 1934 when Langlais was studying organ improvisation with Charles Tournemire and composition with Paul Dukas. The music is built upon a plainsong melody and provides a showcase for the many colours of the Binns organ in Queens' College chapel. Built in 1892, this organ is one of the finest instruments in Cambridge and has not suffered from attempts to 'improve' or enlarge it, as is the case for so many Victorian organs.

The recording concludes with a setting of one of the best-known psalm texts, **The Lord is my shepherd**. Composed in 1975 to celebrate the 900th anniversary of Chichester Cathedral, the music by Lennox Berkeley has a directness and simplicity that belies its harmonic subtlety. A sense of confidence and security is created by the strong tonal centre (on G major) which casts into greater relief the dissonances that Berkeley uses to depict 'the valley of the shadow of death'. As in Mendelssohn's 'Hear my prayer', the division of text between soloist and chorus captures both the personal and the universal nature of the psalmist's text.

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1. Stanford: For lo, I raise up

For lo I raise up that bitter and hasty nation,
which march through the breadth of the earth,
to possess the dwelling places that are not theirs.
They are terrible and dreadful,
their judgment and their dignity proceed from themselves.
Their horses also are swifter than leopards,
and are more fierce than the evening wolves,
and their horsemen spread themselves,
yea, their horsemen come from far.
They fly as an eagle that hasteth to devour,
they come all of them for violence;
their faces are set as the east wind,
and they gather captives as the sand.
Yea, he scoffeth at kings and princes are a derision unto him
for he heapeth up dust and taketh it
then shall he sweep by as a wind that shall pass over and be guilty
even he whose might is his God.

Art not thou from everlasting,
O Lord my God, mine Holy One?
We shall not die.
O Lord, thou hast ordained him for judgement
and thou, O Rock, hast established him for correction

I will stand upon my watch and set me upon the tower
and look forth to see what he will say to me
and what I shall answer concerning my complaint.

And the Lord answered me and said,
The vision is yet for the appointed time,
and it hasteth toward the end and shall not lie
though it tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come.

For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

But the Lord is in his holy temple:
let all the earth keep silence before Him.

Habakkuk 1 (adapted)

2. Nystedt: Peace I leave with you

Peace I leave with you,
my peace I give unto you:
not as the world giveth, give I unto you.
Let not your heart be troubled,
neither let it be afraid.

John 14:27, adapted by Frank Pooler

3. Byrd: My soul oppressed

My soul oppressed with care and grief,
doth cleave unto the dust:
O quicken me after thy word,
for therein do I trust.

My ways unto thee have I shew'd,
thou answerest me again:
Teach me thy law and so I shall
be eased of my pain.

Metrical version of Psalm 119:25-26

4. Gibbons: Behold, thou hast made my days

Behold, thou hast made my days as it were a span long:
and mine age is even as nothing in respect of thee;
and verily every man living is altogether vanity.

For man walketh in a vain shadow,
and disquieteth himself in vain:
he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them.
And now, Lord, what is my hope: truly my hope is even in thee.

Hear my prayer, O Lord,
and let thine ears consider my calling:
hold not thy peace at my tears.
For I am a stranger with thee:
and a sojourner, as all my fathers were.
O spare me a little, that I may recover my strength:
before I go hence, and be no more seen.

Psalm 39:6-8, 13-15

5. Tomkins: Turn unto the Lord

Turn unto the Lord our God
For the Lord is gracious,
His mercy is everlasting;
And his truth endureth from generation to generation

Adapted from Joel 2:13 and Psalm 100:5

7. Purcell: Hear my prayer

Hear my prayer, O Lord:
and let my crying come unto thee.

Psalm 102:1 (Book of Common Prayer)

8. Wollston: Hide not thy face

Hide not thy face from me in the time of my trouble:
incline thine ear unto me when I call;
O hear me, and that right soon

I am become like a pelican in the wilderness:
and like an owl that is in the desert.
I have watched, and am even as it were a sparrow:
that sitteth alone upon the house-top.

Hide not thy face from me,
Incline thine ear unto me.

Psalm 102:2, 6-7 (Book of Common Prayer)

9. Mendelssohn: Hear my prayer

Hear my prayer, O God, incline Thine ear!
Thyself from my petition do not hide!
Take heed to me! Hear how in prayer I mourn to Thee!
Without Thee all is dark, I have no guide.

The enemy shouteth, The godless come fast!
Iniquity, hatred upon me they cast!
The wicked oppress me, Ah, where shall I fly?
Perplexed and bewildered, O God, hear my cry!

My heart is sorely pained within my breast,
My soul with deathly terror is oppressed,
Trembling and fearfulness upon me fall,
With horror overwhelmed, Lord, hear me call!

O for the wings of a dove!
Far away would I rove!
In the wilderness build me a nest,
And remain there for ever at rest.

William Bartholomew, metrical paraphrase of Psalm 55:1-7

11. Wesley: Man that is born of a woman

Man that is born of a woman
hath but a short time to live,
and is full of misery.
He cometh up and is cut down like a flower;
he fleeeth as it were a shadow,
and never continueth in one stay.

In the midst of life we are in death:
of whom may we seek for succour
but of thee, O Lord, who for our sins justly art displeas'd?

Yet, O Lord God most holy,
O Lord most mighty,
O holy and most merciful saviour,
deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death.

Job 14:1-2, The Burial Service (Book of Common Prayer)

12. Purcell: Thou knowest, Lord

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts.
shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayers:
but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty.

O holy and most merciful saviour,
thou most worthy judge eternal,
suffer us not, at our last hour,
for any pains of death,
to fall from thee. Amen.

The Burial Service (Book of Common Prayer)

13. Berkeley: The Lord is my shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me
in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalm 23:1–4



The Choir of Queens' College is one of the leading mixed-voice choirs in Cambridge. It consists of around 24 singers, the majority of whom are undergraduate members of the college, and two organ scholars, all under the leadership of the Director of Music, Dr Silas Wollston. During the academic term, the choir sings at services three times a week in the college chapel, performing music from both Protestant and Catholic traditions. While twentieth-century music forms the core of the choir's repertoire, the choir increasingly performs Baroque and contemporary music, reflecting the specialisms of the Director of Music. The choir is also regularly joined by a group of student instrumentalists, the Queens' Chapel Players, enabling the liturgical performance of concerted music. Outside the academic term, the choir performs both nationally and internationally. In recent years the Choir has travelled to Hong Kong, New York, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Belgium. The Choir's CD recordings, including *And comes the Day* (on Orchid Classics, ORC100027), *Flight of Song*, *Songs of Heaven and Earth* and *Love and Honour*, have attracted widespread critical acclaim.

Soprano

Olivia Bell (9)
Emily Black*
Chloe Evans+
Sophia Halberstam* (1)
Hebe Hamilton
Caroline Hopper+
Jessica Maton (13)

Alto

Elizabeth Bathurst
Kate Lowe+
Robert Hawkins+
Rachel Owusu-Agyei+
Helena Phillips-Robins+
Katie Wong+

Organ

Nicholas Morris (6)
Alexander Knight (10)

Tenor

Oliver Albert*+ (1)
Charles Bell
Nicholas Butler+ (4)
William Fenby*
Paul Merchant
Benedict Morris

Bass

Peter Bardsley
Philipp Heckmann-Umhau
Karol Jaworski
Jocelyn Lloyd*+
Thomas Michaels*+
James Powell*+
Alasdair Phillips-Robins
Arthur Tombs*
Thomas Unwin+

Numbers in brackets indicate solos (by track number)
Consort choir in Byrd indicated by +
Consort choir in Gibbons indicated by *

Silas Wollston is a versatile musician who has pursued a varied career as a performer, teacher, researcher and composer. As principal continuo player and assistant conductor for Sir John Eliot Gardiner from 1999–2010 he became closely associated with the Monteverdi Choir and the English Baroque Soloists, with whom he appeared as a soloist on numerous occasions, including the celebrated Bach Cantata Pilgrimage in 2000. From 1996 to 2004 he was the artistic director of the award-winning chamber ensemble The Private Music, which championed unusual seventeenth-century English repertoire: this became the subject of his PhD thesis (The Open University, 2010). In 2011 he was appointed Director of Music and Director of Studies in Music at Queens' College, Cambridge, and in 2014 he was appointed an Affiliated Lecturer at the Faculty of Music. As a composer, his works have been performed and recorded by Fretwork.

Produced by Alan Mosley

Recording Engineers: Alan Mosley and Ross Winston

Recorded in Queens' College Chapel, Cambridge, 4-7 July 2014

Main organ: Binns Organ (1892); tuned by Harrison & Harrison at 452.5hz

(Victorian organ pitch in summer temperatures)

Chamber organ: copy by Robin Jennings (2003) of a 17th-century

English original belonging to John Mander; tuned at 452.5hz

in meantone temperament by Silas Wollston

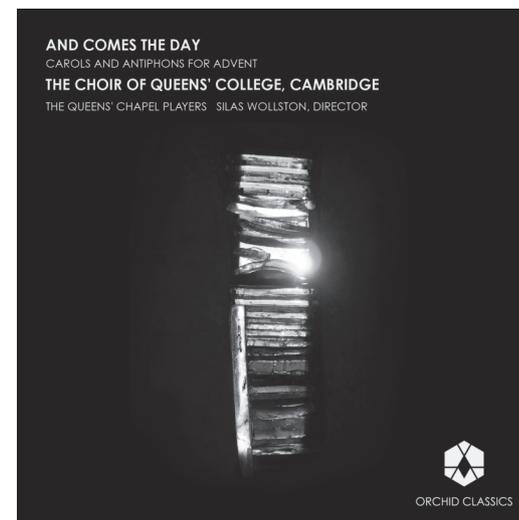
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