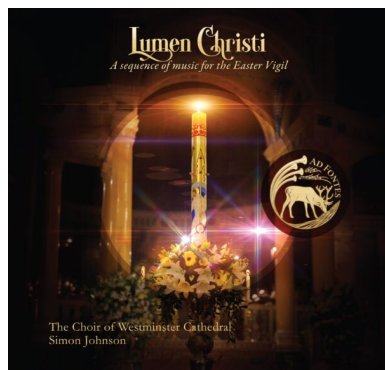


Westminster Cathedral Choir Recordings

(Most recent releases listed first)



Lumen Christi

A sequence of music for the Easter Vigil

Simon Johnson, Conductor Peter Stevens, Organ

The Choir of Westminster Cathedral is the crowning jewel of Catholic church music and has been at the forefront of English sacred music since its foundation in 1901. This new disc draws us into the mystery of the Paschal Vigil, the very apex of the Church's liturgical year, transporting us on a journey from darkness into light through a sequence of plainsong and polyphony. It is the first album under the choir's current director, Simon Johnson, picking up where *Vexilla Regis* (AF002) left off, and immerses the listener in the Cathedral's own unique treasury of liturgical music, including compositions crafted by its former musicians, as well as repertoire at the heart of the choir's work, represented here in polyphony by Victoria, Monteverdi and L'Héritier's glorious *Surrexit pastor bonus*.

"This is its first CD under Simon Johnson, and it demonstrates the choir on superb form." **Catholic Herald**

"The ecstatic joy at Christ's resurrection is musically embodied here in a perfect manner." **MusicWeb International**



VEXILLA REGIS

A sequence of music from Palm Sunday to Holy Saturday

(The choir's) ... 'journey through Holy Week demonstrates, as you would expect, their unique skill in singing Gregorian chant, which comes from the discipline of daily performance and familiarity with the liturgy, combined with an aspiration towards musical perfection and beauty that is unerringly achieved. The same exquisite balance between musical and spiritual intention can be heard throughout the disc, but particularly in two motets by Byrd – *Ne irascaris, Domine* and *Civitas sancti tui* – where every phrase is mellifluously shaped, the choral lines are handed seamlessly from one voice part to another...' **Choir & Organ**

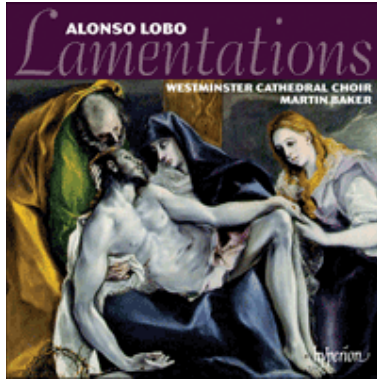


John Sheppard (c1515-1558)

Media vita & other sacred music

Westminster Cathedral Choir, Martin Baker (conductor)

Even by the standards of a time and place—Tudor England—in which masterpieces of choral polyphony appear to have been virtually an everyday occurrence, there is something uniquely and intensely compelling about the surviving works of John Sheppard. This is music designed to be sung by liturgical professionals, and none rise to its demands quite like Westminster Cathedral Choir.

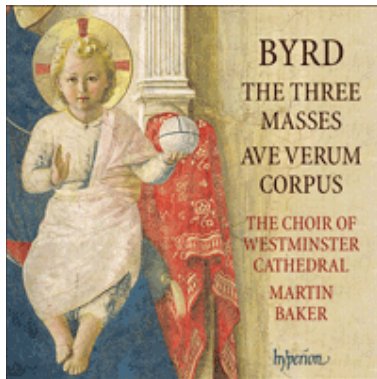


Alonso Lobo (1555-1617)

Lamentations & other sacred music

Westminster Cathedral Choir, Martin Baker (conductor)

Alonso Lobo may be remembered principally for the great funerary motet *Versa est in luctum*, but his setting of the biblical Lamentations must also be counted among the masterpieces of Renaissance polyphony. No choir has a more distinguished tradition in such music than Westminster Cathedral Choir.



William Byrd (1539/40-1623)

The three Masses

Westminster Cathedral Choir, Martin Baker (conductor)

A new recording of the most perfect of Tudor masterpieces, Byrd's three Mass-settings, from the cradle of their nineteenth-century rehabilitation. Westminster Cathedral Choir is enjoying a vintage period, and here we hear its trademark sound in all its glory: unfettered, natural singing from the trebles underpinned by warm yet clear tones from the gentlemen.

This recording celebrates Byrd's Catholic Masses in two ways simultaneously. Most obviously, it addresses great and timeless works, which themselves address great and timeless liturgical texts. But at the same time it reminds us that the revival of Byrd's Masses in the late nineteenth century was pioneered by Roman Catholic church choirs. This is a point worth pondering. Since the accession of Queen Elizabeth I in 1558, the choirs of England's Protestant cathedrals and college chapels have had their own distinctive musical repertory, which has flourished and grown in unbroken tradition. The anthems and services of Thomas Tallis, for instance, have never fallen from cathedral use; they have been the epitome of Choral Evensong and Eucharist for more than four centuries. This Anglican repertory, however, is not what Roman Catholic worship requires. When major Catholic choral foundations were established in late Victorian and Edwardian England, at Downside Abbey, the Brompton Oratory, and above all at Westminster Cathedral, there was a quest for new and more relevant music; and it was at these places that William Byrd's three Latin Masses were revived. Hence the pertinence of this recording; it celebrates that Catholic revival no less than it celebrates the works themselves.



Sir James MacMillan (b1959)
Tenebrae Responsories & other choral works

Westminster Cathedral Choir, London Brass,
Martin Baker (conductor)

Westminster Cathedral Choir returns to acclaimed Scottish composer James MacMillan, whose powerful, passionate and luminous music has made him one of the best-loved choral composers of today. Included on this recording is a dramatic setting of the *Tenebrae Responsories*, a spiritually engaging and emotionally involving work which relates back in its searing intensity and some of its choral effects to *Seven Last Words from the Cross* (1993) (recorded on [Hyperion CDA67460](#)), one of MacMillan's seminal earlier works. The choir is joined by London Brass for jubilant settings of *Tu es Petrus*, *Summae Trinitati* and *Ecce sacerdos magnus*.



Miserere

A sequence of music for Lent, St Joseph, and the Annunciation
Westminster Cathedral Choir, Martin Baker (conductor)

This release from the admired Westminster Cathedral Choir demonstrates the splendours of the liturgy in the at-once solemn and joyful period of Lent. Masterworks from the Renaissance—familiar from Westminster Cathedral Choir's previous award-winning recordings—alternate with works by former organists of the Cathedral (all themselves masters of liturgical composition) and are linked by the plainchant which is at the spiritual heart of the music. Hearing the music like this in context—and recorded in the unique acoustic of the Cathedral—perfectly replicates the live experience for the listener.



Missa De Beata Maria Virgine & Missa Surge propera

Westminster Cathedral Choir, Martin Baker (conductor)

Following the success of the Westminster Cathedral Lay Clerks in their sumptuous men-only recording of Victoria's *Missa Gaudeamus*, the choir returns to full ranks for a further issue in their survey of the Masses of this undisputed Master of the Renaissance.

This new recording opens with Victoria's five-part setting of the Marian antiphon *Salve regina*, followed by two of the composer's Masses: *Missa De Beata Maria Virgine* and *Missa Surge propera*, which is preceded by its Palestrina model. Released to mark the conclusion of a highly successful American tour, this album finds the choir in superb voice and the thrillingly involved sound is perfectly coloured by the Westminster resonance.



Palestrina: Missa Tu es Petrus & Missa Te Deum laudamus

Westminster Cathedral Choir, Martin Baker (conductor)

The celebrated Choir of Westminster Cathedral goes back to its roots with this recording of some of the towering masterpieces of Renaissance polyphony—a genre which the choir has made its own through the ritual of daily liturgical performance. Recent reviews have declared the choir to be at the peak of its powers, and this disc is an important celebration of a great musical tradition.



From the vaults of Westminster Cathedral

A procession of chant & polyphony from Advent to Christmas & the Epiphany and Presentation of our Lord

A century ago, Richard Runciman Terry re-introduced the wonders of the Renaissance into liturgical polyphony and placed Westminster Cathedral Choir at the pinnacle of the art.

‘Splendid singing illuminates these works from the vaults of Westminster... Throughout, the choral singing under Martin Baker’s direction glows resplendently, while still retaining its celebrated ‘continental’ edge.
Gramophone

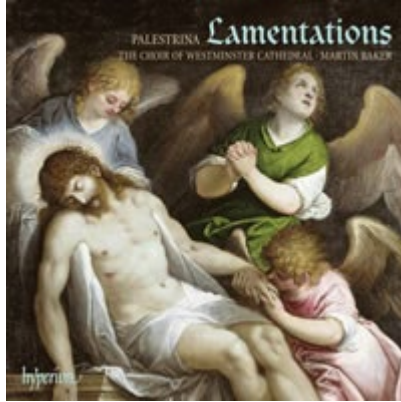


Victoria: Missa Gaudeamus

A liturgical sequence for the Feast of the Assumption, with organ music by Girolamo Frescobaldi

A recording from Westminster Cathedral features the gentlemen of their choir in a fascinating programme which brings to life the musical and liturgical traditions of this foundation.

‘The Lay Clerks make a gloriously full-bodied sound with plenty of contrast and colour throughout the polyphony of both the mass setting and Victoria’s beautiful motet Vidi speciosam. This is very impressive singing indeed.’ **musicalcriticism.com**



Palestrina: Third Book of Lamentations

A continuous narrative describing momentous Biblical events from the Last Supper through to Christ's crucifixion and death

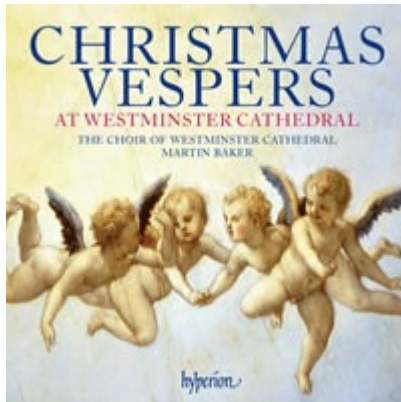
Palestrina composed four sets of Lamentations, the third of which is recorded here. This most opulent of liturgies runs as a continuous narrative describing momentous Biblical events from the Last Supper through to Christ's crucifixion and death.

ONE OF GOLDBERG'S 50 DISCS OF THE DECADE

'Everything about this disc, from the captivating sound to the sleeve notes, is of the highest quality. A must for choral fans' **Classic FM Magazine**

'A pleasing stability of tone ... The overall effect ... is reverential, moving and warmly recorded' **BBC Music Magazine**

'Beautifully executed ... Highly recommended' **Fanfare, USA**



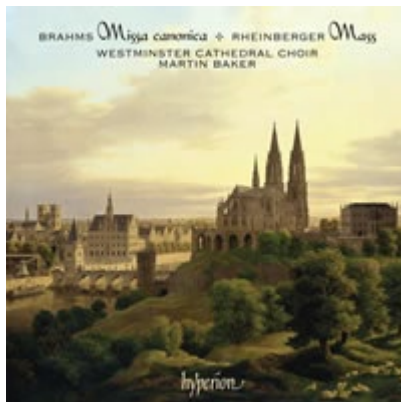
Christmas Vespers at Westminster Cathedral

An adorned version of the Office of Vespers as it might be heard on the eve of Christmas in Westminster Cathedral

The only cathedral choir in the world to sing Mass and Vespers liturgically every day, The Choir of Westminster Cathedral is perfectly placed to offer to the armchair listener this CD encapsulation of their very lifeblood, recorded here in the opulent acoustic of their own cathedral.

'The real value of this disc is the palpable sense of atmosphere in the listening. The service unfolds in the acoustic space of the great Byzantine structure, almost making the listener present ... This disc is quite unique, a hugely successful evocation of Catholic cathedral worship at its best' **Fanfare, USA**

'Christmas comes with a combination of simplicity and stunning excitement in this recording' **American Record Guide**



Brahms/Rheinberger: Mass

Brahms Missa canonica and Rheinberger Mass

Brahms's Missa canonica is something of a rarity: composed around 1856, the work lay unperformed until 1983.

Concluding this new disc from Westminster Cathedral is the extraordinary double-choir Mass in E flat by Joseph Rheinberger, Leichtenstein's most famous organ prodigy. This is music born of the polychoral Venetian tradition of Gabrieli and Monteverdi, nurtured on the harmonic milk of Bach and Mendelssohn, and finally offered up to the world as a miniature choral symphony that is uniquely Rheinberger's.

'It is hard to imagine finer singing of these sacred scores from Brahms and Rheinberger than that from the Westminster Cathedral Choir. The Cathedral choristers display a remarkable technical prowess and refinement... The contribution from organist Matthew Martin is first rate, providing immediacy, without ever being obtrusive. These are superbly performed and recorded sacred works that lovers of choral music will surely relish.' **Musicweb**



Bingham/Vaughan Willaims: Mass

Vaughan Williams Mass in G Minor & Judith Bingham Mass

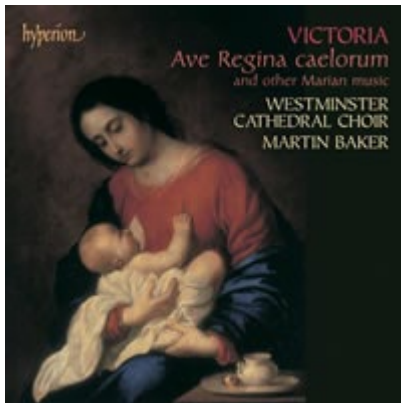
Vaughan Williams's Mass in G Minor has been described as the first "English" Mass setting since the sixteenth century and the time of Tallis and Byrd. In this new performance of the work, which had its first liturgical performance at Westminster Cathedral in 1923, the Choir of Westminster Cathedral promises to set a new standard.

Judith Bingham now counts among the pantheon of composers who have responded to commissions from Westminster Cathedral. Her Mass recently won a British Composer Award for Liturgical Music and the new recording offers it a place in the repertory beyond the cloister.

'As is only to be expected from its past record, the Choir of Westminster Cathedral brings tonal richness and a superb musicality to its performances of these works. The solos sound as confident from the trebles as from the men, and one can almost smell the incense from the atmospheric recording!' **Daily Telegraph**

'A glorious celebration of music written with the acoustics of Westminster Cathedral in mind' **Classic FM Magazine**

'A stirring Vision of aeroplanes testifies to the choir's extraordinary virtuosity which, under Baker, is clearly going from strength to strength ... Hyperion has been making recordings in Westminster Cathedral almost since the day the company first came into being, and, as ever, the sound on this latest disc is gorgeous, full of depth, and with an ideal balance between, choir, organ and atmosphere' **International Record Review**



Victoria: Ave Regina caelorum

and other Marian music

Westminster Cathedral continue their survey of the music of Tomás Luis de Victoria. The performances do full justice to the ambition of Victoria's intentions, as Martin Baker firmly cements his position as worthy successor to the glories achieved by this choir under James O'Donnell and, before him, David Hill & Stephen Cleobury.

ONE OF THE DAILY TELEGRAPH'S CLASSICAL CDs OF THE YEAR 2004

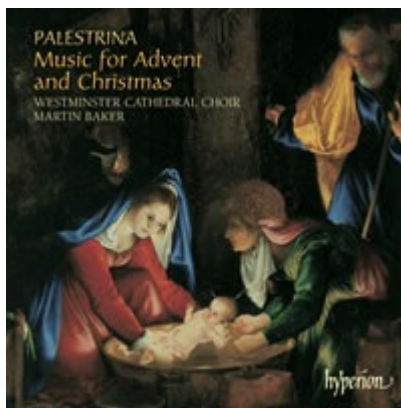
'The choir of Westminster Cathedral has long been noted for its distinctive Continental-style tone, which gives its performances of Latin sacred polyphony an attractively distinctive quality.' **Daily Telegraph**



Maxwell Davies: Mass & Missa parvula *and other sacred works*

This new recording from Westminster Cathedral presents two of the most important new Mass settings of recent times. Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, recently confirmed by Buckingham Palace as the new Master of The Queen's Music. Both Masses were composed for, and first performed by, The Choir of Westminster Cathedral.

'Baker entices some of the most wonderful singing from his choir here while Robert Quinney and Houssart positively revel in their virtuoso interplay. It almost goes without saying that Hyperion's recording captures the full effect of Maxwell Davies' astonishing writing' **Gramophone**



Palestrina: Missa Hodie Christus natus est

Music for Advent and Christmas

Martin Baker's first disc of Palestrina with Westminster Cathedral Choir was highly praised across the world. Here follows another delicious disc of Palestrina, this time dedicated to Christmas, the main work being the stunning Missa Hodie Christus natus est—one of Palestrina's most popular works.

'All the familiar qualities that serve to make Westminster unique among Britain's cathedral choirs are in evidence here ... the crucial added ingredient is singing of a passion and conviction that reminds us that this music is the choir's lifeblood. This is unquestionably one of the glories of the year.'

Goldberg

'This is a thrilling recording of Palestrina's music for the Christmas season' **The Guardian**



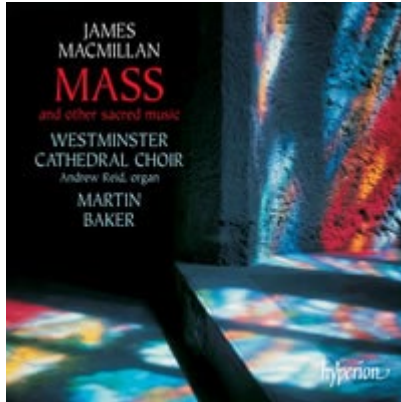
Palestrina: Dum complerentur & Veni Sancte Spiritus

and other music for Whitsuntide

'Purposeful performances by a choir for whom this music is a staple diet, and whose slightly edgy, "continental" treble sound is ideally suited to it' **The Daily Telegraph**

'Here [Martin Baker] reinforces his reputation and that of the choir in energetic accounts of music by Palestrina celebrating Pentecost' **The Guardian**

'The renowned choir are on top form as they respond to Palestrina's majesty ... Highly recommended' **Gramophone**



MacMillan: Mass

and other sacred music

The Mass was commissioned by Westminster Cathedral and was first performed on the Feast of Corpus Christi in 2000.

Many of the pieces on this recording have been commissioned by well-known choirs such as St Paul's Cathedral and King's College, Cambridge. The singing throughout is of the great standard we have come to expect from this choir. The use of soaring treble lines (such as in *Christus vincit*) is particularly special.

All of the works are premiere recordings and the disc is sure to be popular with followers of James MacMillan's music and The Choir of Westminster Cathedral alike.

GRAMOPHONE EDITOR'S CHOICE

BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE BEST CDs OF THE YEAR

'From the moment this CD begins, the senses tingle with the magical, spiritual nature of the music' **The Sunday Herald**

'This music, the Mass in particular, is virtually guaranteed a passage into the central repertoire of choirs around the world; it could hardly have had a better springboard than this recording' **International Record Review**

'Powerful liturgical music from one of today's most admired composers, performed with passionate intensity' **Gramophone**

'It is hard to think of any recent music that conveys religious ecstasy as intensely as James MacMillan's Mass ... music of high voltage from first to last ... the singing of Westminster Cathedral Choir is electrifying' **The Guardian**

'Performances throughout are exceptionally fine and the recorded sound radiantly atmospheric' **Gramophone**

'A sublime disc' **BBC Music Magazine**

'Outstanding performances. Gaudeamus in loci pace is a breath-catching bonus' **HMV Choice**

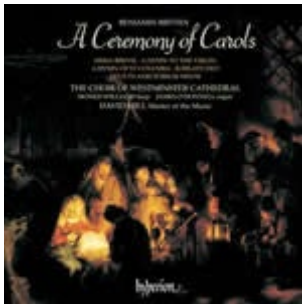
Other Recordings:



Adeste Fides



Anerio: Requiem



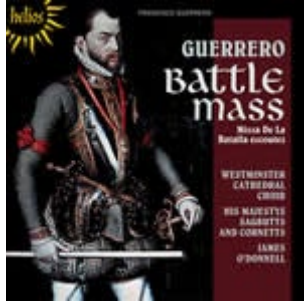
Britten: A Ceremony of Carols



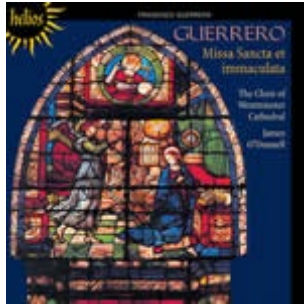
Durufle: Requiem



Exultate Deo



Guerrero: Missa De la battalla escoutez & other works



Guerrero: Missa Sancta et immaculata



Janáček/Kodály: Masses



Josquin: Missa Pange lingua



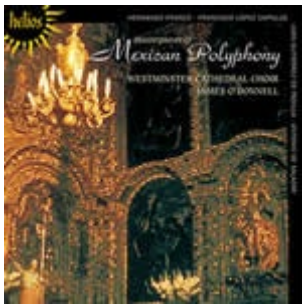
Langlais: Messe solennelle



Lassus: Missa Bell 'Amfirit' altera



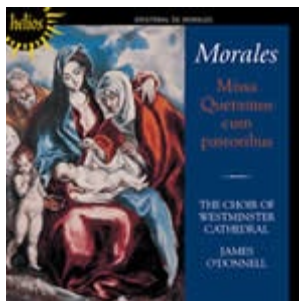
Martin/Pizzetti: Mass & Messadi Requiem



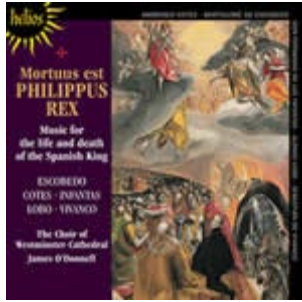
Masterpieces of Mexican Polyphony



Masterpieces of Portuguese Polyphony



Morales: Missa Queramus cum pastoribus



Mortuus est Philippus Rex



Palestrina: Aeterna Christi munera



Palestrina: De Beata Virgine & Ave Maria



Palestrina: Ecce ego Johannes



Palestrina: Missa Papæ Marcelli



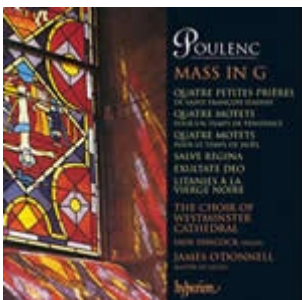
Palestrina: O rex gloriæ & Viri Galilæi



Panis angelicus



Penalosa: Masses



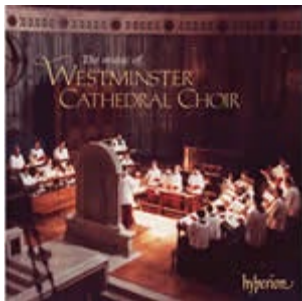
Poulenc: Mass & Motets



Praetorius: Christmas Music



Stravinsky: Mass & Symphony of Psalms



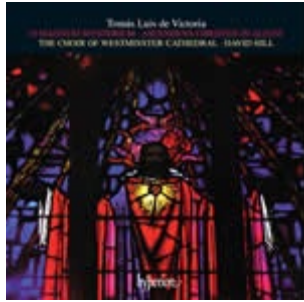
The Music of Westminster Cathedral



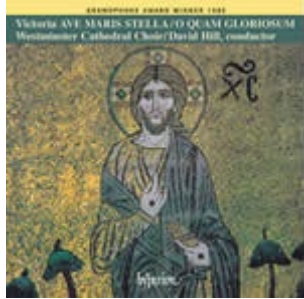
Treasures of the Spanish Renaissance



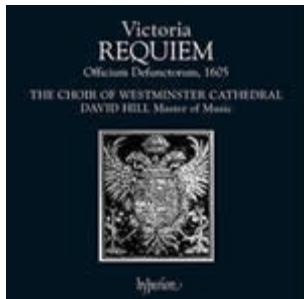
Victoria: Dum compleretur



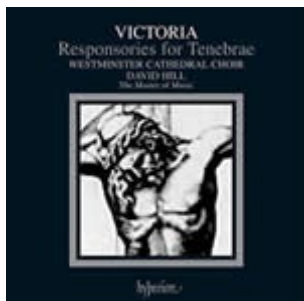
Victoria: O magnum mysterium & Ascendens Christus



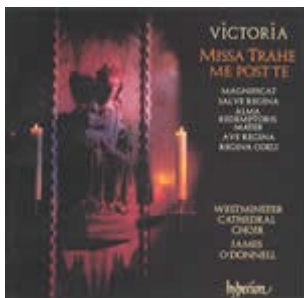
Victoria: O quam gloriosum & Ave maris stella



Victoria: Requiem



Victoria: Tenebrae Responsories



Victoria: Trahe me post te



Victoria: Vidi speciosam



Vierne, Widor & Dupré