

Vasari Singers
dir. Jeremy Backhouse

REQUIEM AETERNAM

**Herbert Howells: Requiem, and
Take him, earth, for cherishing
Frank Martin: Mass for Double Choir**

Signum Records present a deeply intimate disc, of personal and moving works by Herbert Howells and Frank Martin.

In 1935 Herbert Howells' son died at the age of nine. Howells sought release and consolation in his writing, and composed the a cappella, six-movement *Requiem* as a private document to his son. Indeed, Howells considered his *Requiem* so personal an outpouring that he felt the need to withhold it from publication. It was not released until 1980, only three years before the composer's own death.

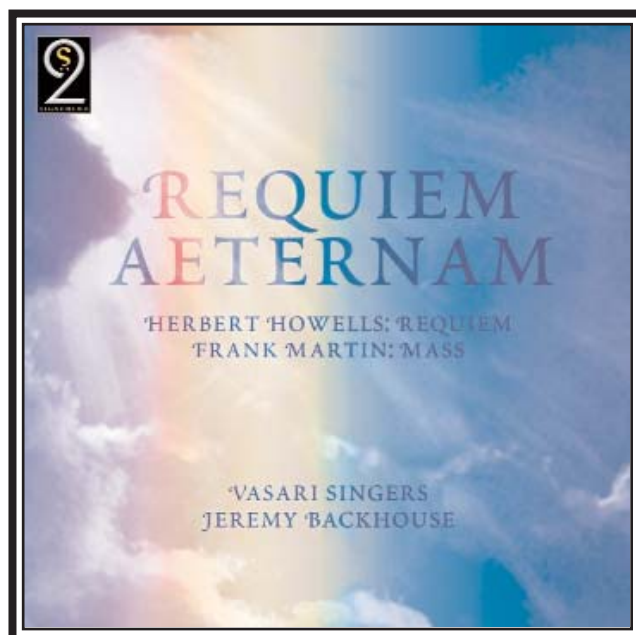
The motet *Take him, earth, for cherishing* has the dedication "To the honoured memory of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, President of the United States of America", and was composed for the commemoration in Washington on 6th June 1964.

Frank Martin was a deeply religious man. He composed the *Mass for Double Choir*, early in his career. The work embodies the profound nature of his beliefs, and was the only work that Martin wrote purely for liturgical purposes. Such was the intensely intimate nature of the work, that, like Howells, the composer withheld it, and kept the manuscript safely in a drawer for over forty years. As Martin himself wrote, "This was something between God and me, that concerned nobody else".

Over the last two decades, the *Vasari Singers* has built up an enviable reputation for excellence, versatility and sensitivity in both live performances and recordings.

They perform these pieces with passion and devotion, and capture the very private and deep-rooted feelings contained within each work.

Please contact Signum Records on +44 (0)870 710 6101 for further information.



Track Listing

Herbert Howells:

Requiem (1935)

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Salvator mundi | [2.55] |
| 2 | Psalm 23 | [2.26] |
| 3 | Requiem aeternam (1) | [3.56] |
| 4 | Psalm 121 | [2.20] |
| 5 | Requiem aeternam (2) | [4.01] |
| 6 | I heard a voice from heaven | [4.53] |

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------------|--------|
| 7 | <i>Take him, earth, for cherishing</i> | [9.05] |
| | (Motet on the Death of President Kennedy) | |

Frank Martin:

Mass (1922 / 1926)

- | | | |
|----|---------------|--------|
| 8 | Kyrie eleison | [5.10] |
| 9 | Gloria | [5.34] |
| 10 | Credo | [5.30] |
| 11 | Sanctus | [4.49] |
| 12 | Agnus Dei | [4.57] |

Total running time: [56.30]

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