

MENU

TRACKLIS1

ENGLISH

SUNG TEXTS

BIOGRAPHIES



Masses, Canticles, Motets

Matthew Martin (b. 1976)

THE CHOIR OF GONVILLE & CAIUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE MATTHEW MARTIN director

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- 2. Kyrie 0:58
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- 5. Agnus Dei 1:55
- 6. Haec dies 4:25
- 7. Sicut cervus* 2:55
- 8. **I saw the Lord** 11:21 **Finlay A'Court** tenor
- 9. **Conditor alme siderum** 2:26 **Matthew Martin** organ
- 10. Adam lay ybounden 2:59
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Total Running Time 78:51

^{*}premiere recording

The music on this album is a collection of shorter works written between 2004 and 2022 using a variety of texts, styles and scoring – depending on the nature of the commission, occasion, choir and building. The compositional style of much of my choral music sits broadly (and rather unfashionably these days) somewhere between Britten and Leighton – with bits of Berkeley and Walton thrown in for good measure. None of the pieces spring particularly from a burning desire to write for its own sake but more from a wish to create useful music for good, young choirs in a style perhaps largely abandoned over the last twenty years – a style which excited me hugely when I was a chorister myself. The overall effect is something of a distillation of the music I loved as a youngster (including the composers mentioned above) but also a great deal of Renaissance repertoire encountered later, plus more mainstream twentieth-century music.

Laudate Dominum was written in 2014 for the fortieth anniversary of the choir associated with the two schools I attended – Tewkesbury Abbey and Dean Close School in Cheltenham. They have since amalgamated to form a 'Schola Cantorum' based at Dean Close but singing in Tewkesbury Abbey and it was this incarnation of the choir (formed in 2006) which sang the first performance. Designed to be accessible to youngsters and to be memorable, it features brassy organ fanfares punctuated by jaunty rhythms – very much an extension of a familiar 1960s English choral idiom.

Missa Speravimus is rather more complicated, original and involved, and the entire Mass is based on a six note cell lifted from the plainsong *Te Deum* ('Speravimus in te'). The piece is a rather obsessive contrapuntal exercise featuring almost every

conceivable treatment of this cell. With shades of the Britten *Missa Brevis*, this *Missa* was written for the 2017 Edington Festival of Music within the Liturgy.

Next an Easter piece for a colleague and fellow composer here in Cambridge – Graham Ross (and the choir of Clare College). *Haec dies* ('This is the day which the Lord has made') nods again towards English choral composers of the 1960s and 70s but with a respectful glance at Clare's own John Rutter in the lively 'Exultemus' sections. The organ part is spiky and sharp-edged, designed to come alive on Clare's 1970s German neo-baroque organ.

Sicut cervus is a short and reflective motet written in 2018 for the choir of Buckfast Abbey. Its warm key (D flat major) and gently lilting character speak to the 'waterbrooks' in the text, whilst the style echoes music encountered during my time as a student at Magdalen College, Oxford, by Bill Ives, John Harper and Bernard Rose. More extended is *I saw the Lord*, a large-scale festival anthem for the 2013 St Davids Festival. Setting texts from Isaiah, it plays out as a mini-cantata with wildly contrasting sections depicting winged seraphim, coals of fire and smoke. Plainsong enthusiasts will spot bits of the 'Orbis factor' Sanctus (Mass XI) and there is an extended solo for tenor also ('Woe is me! for I am undone'). The piece ends much as it began with the singers insisting on a single pitch over organ motifs built upon sevenths.

The two short organ pieces in the programme are both based on existing melodies and are essentially 'chorale preludes' in a traditional style. The first, *Conditor alme siderum* was written for Ben Bloor (Organist at the Brompton Oratory) and sets the Advent plainsong hymn in the context of French-style harmonies reminiscent of Marcel Dupré, with the tune as a *cantus firmus* in the pedals. The second, *Liebster Jesu*, presents the well-known Lutheran melody in (mostly) ⁷ time with nods towards Flor Peeters and Louis Vierne.

A clutch of three Christmas pieces follow: the first, *Adam lay ybounden*, was written for the choir of Westminster Cathedral in 2006 and the effect is ancient and mysterious, responding to the medieval carol text. Snatches of the plainsong 'Ave maris stella' (heard in its entirety later in the album) are heard over simple but extended harmony, and it breaks out into more florid polyphony towards the end with humble supplications of 'Deo gracias'. *I sing of a maiden* also uses a Marian plainsong ('Salve Regina') but this is buried deeper within the texture towards the end of the piece. Written for the OUP compilation 'Carols for Choirs 5', this tiny anthem is designed to be accessible to parish church and school choirs. *Angelus ad Virginem* is a different matter altogether – written for the choir of King's College, Cambridge, in 2022, this arrangement of the well-known French tune twists and turns to showcase the choir and organ to full effect. Dedicated to the memory of Simon Preston (organ scholar at King's in the 1960s), the piece is designed to reflect something of his wit and energy.

Two elaborations of plainsong hymns represent more Catholic leanings plus time spent at Westminster Cathedral and the Brompton Oratory. In both *Ave maris stella* and the Compline hymn *Te lucis ante terminum*, the verses of chant are set in a monastic sound world and nod towards the French composers Jehan Alain and Maurice Duruflé. In both settings, the four-part textures are essentially 'fauxbourdons', with the tune appearing in the tenor (*Te lucis*) and weaving between all four parts (*Ave maris stella*). The plainsong hymn 'Fortem virili pectore' (office hymn for the Common of Holy Women) forms the backbone of the *Hymn to St Etheldreda*, written in 2013 for the choir St Etheldreda's, Ely Place. After an unaccompanied opening section, the organ enters boldly and sets off a verse of the hymn for the upper voices combined with interjections of the first four notes of the solemn 'Salve Regina' from the lower voices. After a brief development section, the

final verse returns in a similar way but with jagged organ chords, propelling it to its climax before fading away into the distance.

Although chant-like in its effect, *Vidi aquam* is a free composition for unaccompanied voices, remaining broadly in mode 8 (mixolydian). Written for a christening in 2004, it weaves through the Easter text within a homophonic texture, depicting the gentle sprinkling of baptismal water. Also *a capella* is the delicate *Prayer of St Thérèse*, written to commemorate the visit of the relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux (1873–1897) to Westminster Cathedral in 2009. Known as the 'Little Flower of Jesus', Thérèse was a young saint who became a nun at the age of fifteen and died at the age of twenty four. Her simplicity of approach to spiritual life has made her a popular role model for Catholics, and Pope Pius X named her 'the greatest saint of modern times'. This little motet echoes that simplicity and sets a small four-line prayer 'Pain vivant de la foi' against a backdrop of various choral effects and a spinning alto line.

The second of the two masses on the disc – The Oratory Mass – is a concise and simple congregational setting written for the Oratory School in Reading. It sets the new approved Catholic translation of the Mass ordinary in a simple modal style, with melodies designed to be picked up and remembered easily by non-musicians. The Magnificat and Nunc dimittis (St John's Service) was written in 2011 for the choir of St John's College, Cambridge. This is a work written in partial homage to similar settings of these texts for this famous choir by Michael Tippett and Robin Orr (Director of Music at St John's, 1938–51). The Magnificat is full of vigour, with hints of serial treatment, and was written to show off the full capabilities of the choristers, choral scholars and organ scholar. The Nunc dimittis uses various cells (both melodic and harmonic) from the Magnificat, but rather more gently with a nod to the well-loved Anglican settings of Herbert Howells and Kenneth Leighton.

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1. Laudate Dominum MENU

Laudate Dominum in sanctis eius; laudate eum in firmamento virtutis eius.

Laudate eum in virtutibus eius;

laudate eum secundum multitudinem

magnitudinis eius.

Laudate eum in sono tubae;

laudate eum in psalterio et cithara.

Laudate eum in tympano et choro;

laudate eum in chordis et organo.

Laudate eum in cymbalis bene sonantibus;

laudate eum in cymbalis iubilationis.

Omnis spiritus laudet Dominum!

Alleluia.

O praise God in his holiness, praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him in his noble acts,

praise him according

to his excellent greatness.

Praise him in the sound of the trumpet,

praise him upon the lute and harp.

Praise him with the timbrels and dances,

praise him upon the strings and pipe.

Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals,

praise him upon the loud cymbals.

Let every thing that has breath praise the Lord!

Alleluia.

Missa Speravimus

2. Kyrie

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

3. Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.

Laudamus te; benedicimus te; adoramus te; glorificamus te.

Gratias agimus tibi

propter magnam gloriam tuam. Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.

Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe; Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris. Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you. We bless you. We adore you. We glorify you.

We give you thanks for your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

Lord Jesus Christ, only-begotten Son; Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Qui tollis peccata mundi, who takes away the sins of the world,

miserere nobis. have mercy upon us.

Qui tollis peccata mundi, Who takes away the sins of the world,

suscipe deprecationem nostram. receive our prayer.

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, Who is seated at the right hand of the Father,

miserere nobis. have mercy upon us.

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus, For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe. you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ.

Cum Sancto Spiritu With the Holy Spirit

in gloria Dei Patris. in the glory of God the Father.

Amen. Amen.

4. Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus.

Holy, Holy, Holy,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Lord God of Hosts.

Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit

in nomine Domini.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he that comes
in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Hosanna in the highest.

5. **Agnus Dei**

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

miserere nobis. have mercy upon us.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

miserere nobis. have mercy upon us.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

dona nobis pacem. *grant us peace.*

6. Haec dies

Haec dies, quam fecit Dominus, This is the day which the Lord has made, exultemus et laetemur in ea. Alleluia. we will rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia.

Confitemini Domino, quoniam bonus: quoniam in saeculum misericordia eius.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious, because his mercy endures for ever.

Dicant nunc, qui redempti sunt a Domino: quos redemit de manu inimici, et de regionibus congregavit eos. Let them give thanks whom the Lord has redeemed and delivered from the hand of the enemy; and gathered them out of the lands.

7. Sicut cervus

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum, ita desiderat anima mea, ad te, Deus. Amen. Like the heart desires the waterbrooks: so longs my soul after you, O God. Amen.

8. I saw the Lord

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

Above him stood the Seraphim: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

And one cried unto another and said: 'Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.' Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus.

And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips,

and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips.
For mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.
Then flew one of the seraphim unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: and he laid it upon my mouth, and said: Lo, this hath touched thy lips and thine iniquity is taken away; and thy sin is purged.

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: whom shall I send?
Who will go for us?
Then said I, Here am I; send me.

10. Adam lay ybounden

Adam lay ybounden, Bounden in a bond; Four thousand winter Thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple, An apple that he took, As clerkes finden Written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been, The apple taken been, Ne had never Our Lady A been heavene queen. Blessed be the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen,
Deo gracias!

11. I sing of a maiden

I sing of a maiden that is makeless King of all kings to her son she ches.

He came all so still where his mother was, As dew in April that falleth on the grass.

He came all so still to his mother's bower, As dew in April that falleth on the flower.

He came all so still where his mother lay, As dew in April that falleth on the spray.

Mother and maiden was never none but she; Well may such a lady Godès mother be.

12. Angelus ad Virginem

Angelus ad Virginem subintrans in conclave Virginis formidinem demulcens inquit: 'Ave! Ave, Regina virginum: caeli terraeque Dominum concipies et paries intacta salutem hominum, tu porta caeli facta medela criminum.'

The angel stealing into her chamber, mollifying the Virgin's fear, said to her, 'Hail! Hail, Queen of virgins: you will conceive the Lord of heaven and earth and give birth, while still a virgin, to the salvation of humankind; you will be made the gate of heaven, the cure of sins.'

'Quomodo conciperem quae virum non cognovi? Qualiter infringerem quod firma mente vovi?' 'Spiritus Sancti gratia perficiet haec omnia; ne timeas, sed gaudeas, secura quod castimonia manebit in te pura Dei potentia.'

Ad haec virgo nobilis respondens inquit ei: 'Ancilla sum humilis omnipotentis Dei. Tibi caelesti nuntio, tanti secreti conscio consentiens et cupiens videre factum quod audio; parata sum parere Dei consilio.'

Angelus disparuit,
et statim puellaris
uterus intumuit
vi partus virginalis.
Qui circumdatus utero
novum mensium numero;
hinc exiit, et iniit conflictum,
affigens humero;
Crucem qua dedit ictum
hosti mortifero.

'How could I conceive,
who have never known a man?
How could I break
what I with firm mind have vowed?'
'The grace of the Holy Spirit
shall carry out all these things.
Be not afraid, but rejoice, free from
care since your chastity
will remain unstained in you
through the power of God.'

To this, the noble Virgin, replying, said to him:
'I am the lowly maidservant of almighty God.
To you, heavenly messenger, privy to so great a secret, I give my consent, and I desire to see done what I hear; I am ready to obey God's plan.'

The angel disappeared, and immediately the girl's womb swelled with the force of the maiden's pregnancy.

He, after being wrapped in the womb for nine months in number, left it and began the struggle, fixing to his shoulder the Cross, with which he dealt a blow to the deadly enemy.

Eia Mater Domini,
quae pacem reddidisti
angelis et homini,
cum Christum genuisti!
Tuum exora Filium
ut se nobis propitium
exhibeat et deleat peccata:
praestans auxilium
vita frui beata
post hoc exsilium.

Hail, Mother of our Lord, who brought back peace to angels and to humankind when you gave birth to Christ! Pray your son that he may show us favour and destroy sin, giving us help to enjoy the blessed life after this time of exile.

13. Ave maris stella

Ave maris stella, Dei Mater alma, atque semper Virgo, felix caeli porta.

Solve vincla reis, profer lumen caecis. Mala nostra pelle, bona cuncta posce.

Monstra te esse matrem: sumat per te preces, qui pro nobis natus, tulit esse tuus.

Vitam praesta puram, iter para tutum, ut videntes Jesum semper collaetemur. Hail, O star of the ocean, God's own mother blest, ever sinless Virgin, gate of heavenly rest.

Break the sinners' fetters, make our blindness day. Chase all evils from us, for all blessings pray.

Show thyself a mother, may the word divine born for us thine infant, Hear our prayers through thine.

Keep our life all spotless, make our way secure till we find in Jesus, joy for evermore. Sit laus Deo Patri, summo Christo decus, Spiritui Sancto, tribus honor unus. Amen. Praise to God the Father, honour to the Son, in the Holy Spirit, be the glory one. Amen.

14. A Hymn to St Etheldreda

Ave Sancta Etheldreda Virgo Regina ora pro nobis Deum pia patrona. Hail Saint Etheldreda, Virgin and Queen, O holy patroness, pray for us to God.

Fortem virili pectore laudemus omnes feminam quae sanctitatis gloria ubique fulget inclyta. Let all praise the womanly strength in your strong heart, the glory of your holiness shines all around.

Deo Patri sit gloria eiusque soli Filio cum Spiritu Paraclito nunc et per omne saecula. Amen. Glory be to the Father, and his only Son with the Holy Spirit, now all through all ages. Amen.

15. Vidi aquam

Vidi aquam egredientem de templo, a latere dextro, alleluia: et omnes, ad quos pervenit aqua ista, salvi facti sunt et dicent, alleluia. I saw water flowing from the temple, on the right side, alleluia: and all to whom that water came have been saved, and they will say, alleluia.

17. A Prayer of St Thérèse

Pain vivant de la foi, céleste nourriture. Ô mystère d'amour. Mon pain de chaque jour Jésus, c'est toi. Living bread of faith, celestial food. O mystery of love. Jesus, you are my daily bread.

The Oratory Mass

See tracks 2-5

22. Te lucis ante terminum

Te lucis ante terminum, rerum creator, poscimus, ut solita clementia, sis praesul ad custodia.

Procul recedant somnia, et noctium phantasmata: hostemque nostrum comprime, ne polluantur corpora.

Praesta, Pater piissime, Patrique compar unice, cum Spiritu Paraclito, regnans pre omne saeculum. Amen. Before the ending of the day, creator of the world, we pray, that with thy wonted favour thou wouldst be our guard and keeper now.

From all ill dreams defend our eyes, from nightly fears and fantasies; tread under foot our ghostly foe, that no pollution we may know.

O Father that we ask be done, through Jesus Christ, thine only son; who, with the Holy Ghost and thee, doth live and reign eternally. Amen.

The St John's College Service

23. Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth:
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him:
throughout all generations.

MENU

He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;

24. Nunc dimittis

world without end. Amen.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:



The Choir of Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, is one of the UK's leading collegiate choirs. The twenty-four singers and two organ scholars, under the direction of the organist and composer Matthew Martin, perform a wide range of sacred and secular choral music. Alongside familiar repertoire from the Anglican choral tradition and beyond, the choir sings much new music and has commissioned works by composers such as Francis Grier, Robin Holloway (a Fellow at Caius), Sir James MacMillan, Judith Weir, Julian Anderson and Cheryl Frances-Hoad (a Caian).

The Choir sings regular Chapel services during the University term and has a busy schedule of additional activities including concerts, recordings and BBC broadcasts. The Choir has travelled extensively abroad, performing at a variety of venues ranging from major concert halls to universities, cathedrals and churches in Europe, America and Asia, often in connection with other professional ensembles such as Northern Ireland Opera, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra of San Francisco, Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra and Orchestre National Bordeaux Aquitaine.

The Choir's recordings have often specialized in the re-discovery of forgotten choral repertories, including previously unpublished music from within the English choral tradition and beyond, as well as championing new music by British composers such as Judith Weir and Julian Anderson. Their debut album for Linn – *Philips & Dering: Motets* – was released in 2023 to critical acclaim.

Matthew Martin is Precentor and Director of College Music at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge. He read Music at Magdalen College, Oxford, before studying at the Royal Academy of Music and (privately) under Marie-Claire Alain in Paris. From 2015 to 2020 he was Director of Music at Keble College, Oxford, and Artistic Director of the Keble Early Music Festival.

Matthew spent much of his early life immersed in cathedral music and in 2010, after six years as Assistant Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral, he decided to focus more on composition. Since then he has been commissioned to write music for many leading ensembles. He won the Liturgical category in the 2013 Ivors Composer Awards, and the first album of his choral music (*Jubilate Deo*) was recorded by Daniel Hyde and the Choir of Magdalen College, Oxford.

He has written for the Cheltenham Music Festival (Trumpet Sonata) and The Tallis Scholars (Lamentations of Jeremiah). His Rose Magnificat for Paul McCreesh and the Gabrieli Consort & Players won the Choral category in the 2019 BBC Music Magazine Awards. In 2019, he was asked to write a festival anthem (*In the midst of thy temple*) for the choir of Westminster Abbey, marking the 750th anniversary of its refounding, and a test piece for organ (*Triptych*) for the 2019 St Albans International Organ Competition. He was commissioned to write a new carol (*Angelus ad Virginem*) for the 2022 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge.

THE CHOIR OF GONVILLE & CAIUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

SOPRANO

Hannah Brooks-Hughes

Emily Callow^{*}
Amy Howell^{*}
Grace Landgrebe
Anna Mullock
Butterfly Paterson^{*}
Sophie Rogan
Gemma Taylor
Hannah Wilkie

ALTO

Laura Wood

Lucy Evans
Fiammetta Fuller Gale*
Heidi Homewood*
Freddie Lindsey-Coombs*
Nathan Mercieca
Louis Pettitt*

TENOR

Finlay A'Court Toby Barnett* Seb Blount Oliver Dickie Tanay Vajramani Hugo Williamson*

BASS

Jacob Carey
Harry Elliot*
Xoan Elsdon
Robert Henderson*
Oliver Merriman*
Orlando Oliver

ORGAN

Kyoko Canaway ^{6,8,13,14,22} Tammas Slater ^{11,18-21} Martin Baker ^{1-5,23-24}

*solo

Recorded at St John the Evangelist, Islington, London, UK, on 10–14 July 2023

Recording Producer & Engineer

Philip Hobbs

Assistant Engineer

Bella Evetts

Post-production

Julia Thomas

Label Manager

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