



8.570439

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Playing Time  
71:00

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Vaughan Williams's Christmas Cantata *Hodie* (This Day) is a brilliant mosaic of musical styles set to poetry from the most diverse sources. Texts by Milton, Hardy, and George Herbert reflecting various Christmas experiences are bound together by a narration of the Gospel Nativity story sung in unison by a boys' choir. With its gripping blend of mysticism, heavenly glory and human hope, *Hodie* flows with a vitality and inventiveness that belie a work written in Vaughan Williams's old age. The *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*, which incorporates a number of traditional English carols, is notable for the *obbligato* cello part and for the varied treatment of the choir, which provide an atmospheric choral-orchestral texture.

## Ralph VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

(1872–1958)

- |   |              |  |             |
|---|--------------|--|-------------|
| <b>1</b> Fantasia on Christmas Carols <sup>3,4</sup>                      | <b>11:42</b> | <b>10</b> Pastoral: The shepherds sing <sup>3</sup>                                | <b>3:04</b> |
| <b>Hodie (This Day)</b>   | <b>59:17</b> | <b>11</b> Narration: But Mary kept all these things <sup>5</sup>                   | <b>0:34</b> |
| <b>2</b> Prologue: Nowell! Nowell! <sup>4</sup>                           | <b>3:56</b>  | <b>12</b> Lullaby: Sweet was the song the Virgin sang <sup>1,4</sup>               | <b>2:32</b> |
| <b>3</b> Narration: Now is the birth of Jesus Christ <sup>2,5</sup>       | <b>4:54</b>  | <b>13</b> Hymn: Bright portals of the sky <sup>2</sup>                             | <b>3:55</b> |
| <b>4</b> Song: It was the winter wild <sup>1,4</sup>                      | <b>4:46</b>  | <b>14</b> Narration: Now when Jesus was born <sup>4,5</sup>                        | <b>3:00</b> |
| <b>5</b> Narration: And it came to pass in those days <sup>5</sup>        | <b>1:55</b>  | <b>15</b> The March of the Three Kings: From kingdoms of wisdom <sup>1,2,3,4</sup> | <b>7:33</b> |
| <b>6</b> Choral: The blessed son of God <sup>4</sup>                      | <b>2:25</b>  | <b>16</b> Choral: No sad thought his soul affright <sup>4</sup>                    | <b>2:18</b> |
| <b>7</b> Narration: And there were in the same country <sup>1,2,4,5</sup> | <b>7:06</b>  | <b>17</b> Epilogue: In the beginning was the Word <sup>1,2,3,4</sup>               | <b>6:49</b> |
| <b>8</b> Song: The Oxen <sup>3</sup>                                      | <b>3:20</b>  |  |             |
| <b>9</b> Narration: And the shepherds returned <sup>4,5</sup>             | <b>1:12</b>  |  |             |

Janice Watson, Soprano<sup>1</sup> • Peter Hoare, Tenor<sup>2</sup> • Stephen Gadd, Baritone<sup>3</sup>  
Guildford Choral Society<sup>4</sup> • St Catherine's School Middle Chamber Choir<sup>5</sup>  
Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (Leader: Clio Gould)  
Hilary Davan Wetton

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