

This disc of sacred choral music features the masterly *Symphony of Psalms*, which Stravinsky dedicated “to the glory of God”. The composer himself wrote “It is not a symphony in which I have included Psalms to be sung ... it is the singing of Psalms that I am symphonising.” The *Mass* (1944-48) dates from the composer’s first decade in America, and is deeply rooted in medieval chant. *Cantata* (1951-52) consists of nine canons, the centrepiece of which is the *Ricercare* for tenor, in which Christ foretells his Crucifixion. In *Babel* (1944), Stravinsky uses text in which the descendants of Noah are frustrated in their attempt to build a tower reaching heaven.

philharmonia  
orchestra

Igor  
STRAVINSKY  
(1882-1971)

1	3	Three Russian Sacred Choruses	4:45
4	8	Mass	17:09
9	15	Cantata	23:46
16		Babel	4:57
17	19	Symphony of Psalms	22:25

Mary Ann Hart, Mezzo-soprano • Thomas Bogdan, Tenor

Fred Sherry, Cello • Stephen Taylor, Oboe

Melanie Feld, Oboe and Cor Anglais

Michael Parloff and Bart Feller, Flutes • David Wilson-Johnson, Narrator

The Simon Joly Chorale • The Gregg Smith Singers

Orchestra of St. Luke’s • Philharmonia Orchestra • Robert Craft

Full track and artist listings can be found on page 2 of the booklet

Sung texts and translations can be accessed at [www.naxos.com/libretti/symphonyofpsalms.htm](http://www.naxos.com/libretti/symphonyofpsalms.htm)

Tracks 1-3 recorded in 1992 at SUNY, Purchase, NY • Tracks 4-8 recorded in 1995 at SUNY, Purchase, NY

Tracks 9-15 recorded in 1995 at SUNY, Purchase, NY

Track 16 recorded on 27th March, 2002 at Abbey Road Studio No. 1, London

Tracks 17-19 recorded on 5th and 6th January, 2001 at Abbey Road Studio No. 1, London

All tracks produced by Gregory Squires • All tracks published by Boosey & Hawkes Ltd.,  
except track 16 published by Schott Music International • Booklet Notes: Robert Craft

These recordings were previously released on MusicMasters (tracks 1-15)

and Koch International Classics (tracks 16-19)

Cover image: *St Basil's Cathedral* by Vladimir Pomortsev (Dreamstime.com)



8.557504

DDD

Playing Time  
73:03



© 1992-2002 & © 2006  
Naxos Rights International Ltd.  
Booklet notes in English  
Kommentar auf Deutsch  
Made in the EU  
[www.naxos.com](http://www.naxos.com)