

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)

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

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

Recorded at Cadogan Hall, London, UK, from 13th to 14th January, 2007
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Playing Time
71:00



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 Booklet notes in English • Kommentar auf Deutsch
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