

**NAXOS**

8.570451

DDDPlaying Time
69:44

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Booklet Notes in English • Kommentar auf Deutsch
Song texts and translations can be found at
www.naxos.com/libretxt/570451.htm
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This recording aims to provide Robert Parsons, who died tragically in his forties, with a memorial service he never received and aid his return to a place alongside the greatest English Renaissance composers. Movements from the *First Great Service*, scored for two antiphonal choirs, provide the core of this 'remembrance service' for Robert Parsons. In scale and polyphonic grandeur the work maintains the old Catholic tradition, while making use of the new Protestant liturgy with its revolutionary setting of the 1549 English texts. Interspersed between movements of the *First Great Service* are a number of pieces taken from the *Responds for the Dead*, set to Latin texts. The *Magnificat*, which opens this recording, is the largest-scale single work that Parsons wrote.

Robert PARSONS (c.1530-1572)

First Great Service • Responds for the Dead

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| 1 | Magnificat | 14:35 |
| 2 | Venite from the <i>First Great Service</i> | 5:21 |
| 3 | Te Deum from the <i>First Great Service</i> | 8:08 |
| 4 | Peccantem me, quotidie from <i>Responds for the Dead</i> | 4:12 |
| 5 | Benedictus from the <i>First Great Service</i> | 8:02 |
| 6 | Libera me, Domine from <i>Responds for the Dead</i> | 6:45 |
| 7 | Creed from the <i>First Great Service</i> | 5:36 |
| 8 | Credo quod redemptor from <i>Responds for the Dead</i> | 3:28 |
| 9 | Magnificat from the <i>First Great Service</i> | 5:17 |
| 10 | Nunc dimittis from the <i>First Great Service</i> | 2:44 |
| 11 | Ave Maria | 5:36 |

Voces Cantabiles • Barnaby Smith, Director

Tracks 1, 4, 6, 8 and 11 set to Latin texts; Tracks 2, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 10 set to English texts
Musical editions prepared by George Steel (tracks 2, 3, 5, 9 and 10), Jason Smart (track 1) and
Jason Smart/John Milson/Oxford University Press (track 4)

Recorded at St Jude-on-the-Hill, Hampstead, London, on 8 February, 2007 (tracks 1, 4, 8 and 11) and at
All Hallows Church, Gospel Oak, London, on 9 February, 2007 (tracks 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10)

Producer and Engineer: Michael Ponder • Booklet Notes: Barnaby Smith

Cover Photo: A cross and trees (dreamstime.com)