

Although Vaughan Williams described himself as 'a cheerful agnostic', he was not only steeped in the traditions of the Anglican Church, but sensitive to the mystical significance 'of what lies beyond sense and knowledge'. Written in 1936, his cantata *Dona nobis pacem* sets powerful Biblical texts alongside those by Walt Whitman and John Bright and is both a warning that mankind was sliding disastrously towards another war and a plea for a world without strife. The oratorio *Sancta Civitas*, one of his most original choral works, strikingly deploys vocal and orchestral forces to depict the battle between good and evil from the Book of Revelation.

Ralph
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
 (1872–1958)

1-6 **Dona nobis pacem *** **33:29**

A Cantata for Soprano and Baritone Soli, Chorus and Orchestra

7-16 **Sancta Civitas §** **31:10**

An Oratorio for Baritone and Tenor Soli, Chorus,
 Semi-Chorus, Distant Chorus and Orchestra

Christina Pier, Soprano * • Matthew Brook, Baritone

Andrew Staples, Tenor §

The Bach Choir • Winchester Cathedral Choristers §

Winchester College Quiristers §

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra • David Hill

Recorded in the Concert Hall, The Lighthouse, Poole, Dorset, UK, from 26th to 27th September, 2009
 Producer: Andrew Walton (K&A Productions Ltd.) • Engineer: Phil Rowlands • Editor: Deborah Spanton

Recorded and edited at 24bit resolution • Please see the booklet for a detailed track and artist list

Sung texts are available at www.naxos.com/libretti/572424.htm

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Playing Time

64:39



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