

Before he was thirty, Olivier Messiaen had written the work that established his worldwide reputation as a visionary composer for the organ, *La Nativité du Seigneur* (The Birth of the Saviour). A synthesis of his innovative compositional style, it is rich in colourful harmonies and precisely noted but flexible rhythms, many derived from Hindu t  las and from the metre of Gregorian chant. This musical commentary on the Christmas story is divided into nine movements evoking timeless grace, beauty, radiance, exhilaration, and majesty. Tom Winpenny is Assistant Master of the Music at St Albans Cathedral, the oldest site of continuous Christian worship in Britain.

Olivier  
**MESSIAEN**

(1908-1992)

**La Nativit   du Seigneur (1935)**  
(The Birth of the Saviour)

- |   |  |       |
|---|--|-------|
| 1 | La Vierge et l'Enfant (The Virgin and Child)           | 7:02  |
| 2 | Les Bergers (The Shepherds)                            | 6:34  |
| 3 | Desseins   ternels (Eternal Purposes)                  | 5:39  |
| 4 | Le Verbe (The Word)                                    | 11:22 |
| 5 | Les Enfants de Dieu (The Children of God)              | 3:48  |
| 6 | Les Anges (The Angels)                                 | 3:43  |
| 7 | J  sus accepte la souffrance (Jesus accepts Suffering) | 4:47  |
| 8 | Les Mages (The Magi)                                   | 8:39  |
| 9 | Dieu parmi nous (God among us)                         | 9:35  |

**Tom Winpenny, Organ**

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Playing Time  
61:07



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