

Olivier Messiaen's early organ works helped establish him as a towering figure of 20th century music. *L'Ascension* is the most significant of these, with its solemn majesty, dazzling colours and near-static serenity and timelessness. These qualities were already present in *Le Banquet céleste*, Messiaen's first published organ work, and in *Apparition de l'Église éternelle* – a powerful representation of the eternal church emerging and fading from view. The two works discovered posthumously in 1997, *Prélude* and *Offrande au Saint-Sacrement*, show the influence of Dupré and Tournemire. Tom Winpenny's acclaimed recording of Messiaen's *La Nativité du Seigneur* can be heard on Naxos 8.57332.

**Olivier
MESSIAEN**
(1908-1992)

**L'Ascension [The Ascension]
(version for organ, 1933-34)**

1	Majesté du Christ [Majesty of Christ]	25:04
2	Alléluias sereins [Serene Alleluias]	6:06
3	Transports de joie [Outbursts of Joy]	6:06
4	Prière du Christ [Prayer of Christ]	4:59
5	Diptyque [Diptych] (1928-1930?)	7:53
6	Offrande au Saint-Sacrement [Offering to the Holy Sacrement] (1930s)	10:51
7	Prélude (1928-1930?)	6:04
8	Le Banquet céleste [The Celestial Banquet] (1928)	8:14
9	Apparition de l'Église éternelle [Apparition of the Eternal Church] (1932)	7:14
		9:06

Tom Winpenny, Organ

With thanks to the Minister and staff of St Giles' Cathedral, and to Michael & Brigitte Harris for their generous assistance.

Recorded at St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, Scotland, on 17th and 18th February, 2015

Produced, engineered and edited by Adrian Lucas (Acclaim Productions) • Production assistant: David Wilkins

Publishers: Editions Alphonse Leduc (tracks 1-4, 6-8); Editions Durand & Cie. (track 5);

Editions Henri Lemoine (track 9) • Booklet notes: Tom Winpenny • Cover: Rolffimages (Dreamstime.com)

8.573471

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Playing Time
66:33



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