

William Mathias wrote some of the most imaginative, communicative and joyful choral music of the mid- to late 20th century. These qualities are perhaps most clearly represented in his substantial catalogue of works for choir and, in particular, his settings of sacred texts, notably the invigorating *A Babe is Born* and the hauntingly beautiful *Ave verum corpus*, one of his last compositions. This selection also includes the both serious and entertaining sequence of *Riddles* and the rapt, ecstatic *A May Magnificat*. More Mathias choral music can be heard on 8.573523.

William
MATHIAS
(1934–1992)

1	A Babe is Born, Op. 55 (1971)	3:16
2–3	Jesus College Canticles, Op. 53 (1970)	6:53
4–8	Learsongs (1988)*	16:10
9	Y nefoedd sydd yn datgan gogoniant Duw (‘The Heavens Declare the Glory of God’) (1988)	8:51
10	Ave verum corpus (1992)	4:28
11–17	Riddles (1987)*	21:40
18	A May Magnificat, Op. 79, No. 2 (1978)	9:46

* WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

Hugh Crook 1 9, Shanna Hart 2 3 10, Organ

Glen Dempsey 4–8, Aïda Lahlou 4–8, Marie-Noëlle Kendall 11–17, Piano

David Ellis, Bells 11–17, Chime bars 18

The Gentlemen of St John’s 11–17

St John’s Voices • Graham Walker, Director

A detailed track list can be found on page 2 of the booklet.

The available sung texts can be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/574162.htm

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8.574162

Playing Time
71:52



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