

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)

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|-------|---|-------|
| 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

Recorded: 22–24 March 2019 at St John’s College Chapel, Cambridge, UK

Producer: Jeremy Hayes • Engineer and editor: Ben Connellan

Booklet notes: Paul Conway • Publisher: Oxford University Press • Welsh language coach: Anna Evans

Cover: *Sunset at Rhossili Bay, South Wales* by leighcol (iStockphoto.com)



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8.574162

Playing Time
71:52



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Booklet notes in English
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