

NAXOS

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Playing Time
63:21

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An inspired selection of hymns and anthems mainly by composers steeped in the Anglican choral tradition on both sides of the Atlantic. Represented are great hymn-writers including SS Wesley, with Canticles and Anthems by luminaries such as Herbert Howells (perhaps the greatest Anglican choral composer of all), Healey Willan (the father of Canadian choral music) and contemporaries such as Bryan Kelly. The album reaches its apogee with William Harris's divine anthem *Faire is the Heaven*, from which the album takes its title.

FAIRE IS THE HEAVEN

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|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | GORDON SLATER: Jesu, the very thought of Thee‡ | 4:45 |
| 2 | HEALEY WILLAN: Gloria Deo per immensa saecula | 7:46 |
| 3 | SYDNEY CAMPBELL: Sing we merrily unto God our strength | 2:19 |
| 4 | HEALEY WILLAN: I beheld her | 2:15 |
| 5 | HEALEY WILLAN: Fair in face | 2:19 |
| 6 | HEALEY WILLAN: Rise up, my love | 2:01 |
| 7 | HERBERT HOWELLS: Te Deum | 8:22 |
| 8 | SAMUEL S. WESLEY: O Thou who camest from above | 2:36 |
| 9 | IMANT RAMINSH: Ave verum corpus | 5:23 |
| 10 | JOHN IRELAND: My song is love unknown* | 3:15 |
| 11 | W.A. MOZART: Ave verum corpus | 3:13 |
| 12 | BRYAN KELLY: Magnificat | 3:32 |
| 13 | W.H. MONK: Abide with me† | 3:09 |
| 14 | FELIX MENDELSSOHN: Verleih uns Frieden | 4:43 |
| 15 | WILLIAM H. HARRIS: Faire is the heaven | 5:16 |
| 16 | Rev. C.C. SCHOLEFIELD: The day Thou gavest* | 2:28 |

* Descant by Paul Halley † Descant by Stephen Crisp ‡ arr. Paul Halley

Choir of St John's Church, Elora • Noel Edison • Paul Halley

Recorded at St John's Church, Elora, Ontario, Canada from February 2nd to 6th, 2002

Producers: Bonnie Silver and Norbert Kraft • Engineer: Norbert Kraft

Booklet Notes: John Mayo

Cover Image: *The army of heaven* by Ridolfo di Arpo Guariento (d. 1378)
(The Art Archive / Museo Civico Padua / Dagli Orti)