

Olivier Messiaen was a towering figure in 20th-century music, and for many years he considered *Les Corps glorieux* the favourite of his own works. It is recognised as the pinnacle of his pre-war organ compositions, vividly depicting the themes of resurrection through deeply expressive symbolism, life and death struggles and ecstatic joy. Ten years later the *Messe de la Pentecôte* marked a departure in style, drawing on Messiaen's liturgical improvisations and crystallising his latest rhythmic and serial techniques and use of birdsong into a ground-breaking masterpiece.

Olivier
MESSIAEN

(1908-1992)

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| Les Corps glorieux (The Glorified Bodies) (1939) | | 47:10 |
| 1 | I. Subtilité des Corps glorieux (Subtlety of the Glorified Bodies) | 5:58 |
| 2 | II. Les Eaux de la Grâce (The Waters of Grace) | 3:04 |
| 3 | III. L'Ange aux parfums (The Angel of Incense) | 7:19 |
| 4 | IV. Combat de la Mort et de la Vie (Battle between Death and Life) | 13:46 |
| 5 | V. Force et Agilité des Corps glorieux
(Strength and Agility of the Glorified Bodies) | 3:32 |
| 6 | VI. Joie et Clarté des Corps glorieux
(Joy and Brightness of the Glorified Bodies) | 5:15 |
| 7 | VII. Le Mystère de la Sainte-Trinité (The Mystery of the Holy Trinity) | 8:16 |
| Messe de la Pentecôte (Pentecost Mass) (1949-50) | | 24:20 |
| 8 | Entrée: Les langues de feu (Introit: The Tongues of Fire) | 2:04 |
| 9 | Offertoire: Les choses visibles et invisibles
(Offertory: The Things Visible and Invisible) | 9:55 |
| 10 | Consécration: Le don de Sagesse (Consecration: The Gift of Wisdom) | 3:27 |
| 11 | Communion: Les oiseaux et les sources
(Communion: The Birds and the Springs of Water) | 5:22 |
| 12 | Sortie: Le vent de l'Esprit (Recessional: The Wind of the Spirit) | 3:31 |

Tom Winpenny, Organ

Recorded by kind permission of the Dean of Hildesheim Cathedral,
and with the generous assistance of Stefan Mahr, Georg Oberauer, Thomas Viezens, and Florian Fay.

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