Choral Adagios (2004)



CD1 1. Barber - String Quartet No.1, Op.11, II.Adagio (Edwards, arr. Runswick) 2. Mozart - Ave Verum Corpus, K618 3. Bach_Gounod - Ave Maria 4. Faure - Pavane, Op.50 (Choral) 5. Franck - Panis Angelicus (Choral) 6. Bach - Orchestral Suite No.3 in D Major, BWV 1068, II.Air (Choral, Edwards, arr. Runswick) 7. Stanford - The Blue Bird (Choir of New College) 8. Rodrigo - Concierto de Aranjuez, II.Adagio (Choral, Edwards, arr. Runswick) 9. Mascagni - Cavalleria Rusticana, Easter Hymn (Edwards) 10. Ravel - Pavane pour une Infante Defunte (Edwards, arr. Runswick) 11. Rossini - O Salutaris Hostia 12. Trad - Simple Gifts (Mormon Tabenacle Choir) play 13. Tavener - Song For Athene (Cleobury) 14. Puccini - Humming Chorus, Madam Butterfly 15. Allegri - Miserere Mei (Choir of King's College, Cleobury) CD2: 1. Bach- Jesu, Joy Of Man's Desiring 2. Handel- Crux Fidelis (After Ombra Mai Fu) 3. Rutter- What Sweeter Music 4. Schubert-Adagio, String Quintet In C Major, D956 5. Shenandoah 6. Faure- In Paradisum, Requiem play

7. Borodin- Notturno, String Quartet No. 2 In D Major 8. Tchaikovsky- Andantino Semplice, Piano Concerto No. 1 In B Flat Minor, Op. 23 9. Rachmaninov- Blessed Is The Man (All Night Vigil) 10. Beethoven- Allegretto, Symphony No. 7 In A Major, Op. 92 11. Mozart- Andante, Piano Concerto No. 21 In C Major, K467 12. Faure- Cantique De Jean Racine 13. Casals- Te Lucis Ante Terminum 14. Bach- Wir Setzen Uns Mit Tranen Nieder, St Matthew Passion Performers: Hymnus-Chorknaben Stuttgart, Karl Munchinger (Conductor), Helen Tunstall (Harp), Stephen Cleobury (Organ), Peter Aronsky (Piano),

Christopher van Kampen (Cello), Peter White (Organ),

St. John's College Choir, Cambridge, Alastair Hussain (Treble), Edward Gardner (Cantor), Herbert von Karajan (Conductor), Vienna State Opera Choir, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Julia Varady (Vocal), National Philharmonic Orchestra, London Opera Chorus, Gianandrea Gavazzeni (Conductor), Michael Conn (Guitar), James Vivian (Organ), L' Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (Choeur des femmes), Montréal Symphony Orchestra, Charles Dutoit (Conductor), New College Choir, Oxford, Choir of King's College, Cambridge, London Voices

Not for nothing is it often said that `there is no instrument like the human voice'. This 2 CD box

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set confirms this statement in leaps and bounds. Released in July 2004 by Decca several months after the release of Heavenly Adagios in Oct 2003, Decca went one better and released a 2 cd set of all choral versions of popular classics. It was a pleasant discovery for me to find that many a piece of music I had known only the orchestral version, also had or could be written for the voice. Such pleasant surprises include the vocal rendition of Barbers adagio for strings, Bach's air on G string, Rodrigo's concerto de Arunjuez, Mozart's Piano concerto no 21, Tchaikovsky's Piano concerto no1, Beethoven's symphony no 7, but the piece de la resistance was Schubert's quintet in C major. If you have ever doubted the ability and versatility of the human voice you need to listen to this on disc 2 track 4.

Apart from the above there are many popular choral favourites like Jesus joy of man's desiring, Ave Maria by Bach/Gounod, Mozart's Ave Verum etc. There were some pleasant gems of music I discovered that gave me added pleasure e.g Stanford's blue bird, Simple gifts (traditional); Rutter's what sweet music, Shenandoah and Taverner's song for Athene. This 2 CD compilation is a great revelation in the versatility of the human voice. --- Uenna (London), amazon.com

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back