

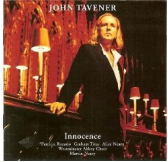
## John Tavener – Innocence (Martin Neary)

Written by bluesever

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## John Tavener – Innocence (Martin Neary)



1 *The Lamb* 3:53 2 *Innocence* 24:23 3 *The Tyger* 6:05 4 *Annunciation* 5:56 Two  
Hymns To The Mother Of God  
5 *Hymn To The Mother Of God* 2:42 6 *Hymn For The Dormition Of The Mother Of God* 4:56  
Little Requiem For Father Malachy Lynch (10:54)  
7a *Requiem* 7b *Dies Irae* 7c *Lacrymosa - Dies Irae* 7d *Libera Me* 7e *Requiem* 8  
*Song For Athene* 7:11  
Patricia Rozario – soprano Leigh Nixon – tenor Graham Titus – bass Alice Neary -cello  
Martin Baker – organ Charles Fullbrook – bells Westminster Abbey Choir English Chamber  
Orchestra Martin Neary – conductor

Innocence, the longest work here, is the least successful. The bulk of the piece is a catalog of cruelties inflicted by humankind on innocents--mostly children--set to harsh but generally monotonous music. But Patricia Rozario is spectacular in a three-octave solo part, and the ending, with an ethereal chorus and bells depicting the salvation awaiting suffering innocents, is magical. The shorter pieces are deservedly among Tavener's most famous. The gentle, beguiling *The Lamb* and the powerful *Tyger*, settings of poems by William Blake, make an ideal pair. (Where *The Tyger's* text alludes to *The Lamb*, Tavener quotes *The Lamb's* music to wonderful effect.) The two hymns to the Mother of God are models of reverent beauty; *Song for Athene*, made world-famous at Princess Diana's funeral, is spellbinding. --Matthew Westphal, Editorial Reviews

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