



CONVIVIVM
RECORDS

Oliver Tarney
Lux Stellarum

Rupert Gough *directs*
The Choir Of Royal Holloway
with organist Andrew Dewar

Tracklist

1	Requiem æternam	5.19
2	Kyrie	3.49
3	Stars	4.14
4	Sanctus	4.35
5	Agnus Dei.	4.11
6	In paradisum	6.27
Total running time		28.35

Programme Note

Lux Stellarum (Light of the Stars) is a short requiem for choir and organ, written for Zach Ullery, Andrew Dewar, and the choir of the American Cathedral, Paris. Along with texts by Marjorie Pickthall and John Donne, *Lux Stellarum* interpolates a number of biblical passages about stars and the universe. Plainsong melodies are used throughout the piece from the *Missa pro defunctis* (the mass for the dead) and *Conditor alme siderum* (Creator of the stars of night.)

The work is light and optimistic in

character and centres on our part in the unfathomable wonder, vastness, and possibility of the cosmos, trusting that as God calls all the stars by their names, he calls us by ours to enter into the house and gate of the heavens, where, in the words of John Donne, ‘*there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light; no noise nor silence, but one equal music; no foes nor friends, but one equal [...] identity; no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity.*’

Oliver Tarney August 2019

Texts

1 Requiem æternam

Requiem æternam dona eis,
Domine: et lux perpetua luceat eis.
*[Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.]*

Seek him that maketh the
seven stars and Orion
Who turneth the darkness
into morning. **(Amos 5:8)**
et lux perpetua luceat eis.
[and let perpetual light shine upon them.]

2 Kyrie

Kyrie eleison
[Lord, have mercy.]
Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people’s everlasting light,
Christe eleison
[Christ, have mercy.]

Jesu, redeemer of us all,
Hear Thou Thy servants
when they call. **(Liber Usualis)**
Kyrie eleison.
[Lord, have mercy.]

3 Stars

Now in the West
the slender moon lies low,
And now Orion glimmers
through the trees,
Clearing the earth with
even pace and slow,
And now the
stately-moving Pleiades,
In that soft infinite
darkness overhead
Hang jewel-wise
upon a silver thread.

And all the lonelier stars
that have their place,
Calm lamps within
the distant southern sky,
And planet-dust upon
the edge of space,
Look down upon the
fretful world,
and I Look up to outer
vastness unafraid
And see the stars which
sang when earth was made.
Marjorie Pickthall

Texts

4 Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua.
*[Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.]*

He clotheth himself with
light as with a garment
and spreadeth out the heav'ns
like a curtain.
(Psalm 104:2)

He counteth the number
of the stars;
And calleth them all
by their names.
(Psalm 147:4)

Hosanna in excelsis.
[Hosanna in the highest.]

Benedictus qui venit in
nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.
[Hosanna in the highest.]

5 Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
dona eis requiem.
*[Lamb of God, who takes away the sins
of the world: grant them rest.]*

Who hath made great lights:
for his mercy endureth for ever.
(Psalm 136:7)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
dona eis requiem.
*[Lamb of God, who takes away the
sins of the world: grant them rest.]*

The moon and stars to govern the night:
for his mercy endureth for ever.
(Psalm 136:9)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi:
dona eis requiem sempiternam.
*[Lamb of God, who takes away the sins
of the world: grant them eternal rest.]*

6 In paradisum

Bring us, O Lord God, at our
last awakening into the
house and gate of heaven,
where there shall be no
darkness nor dazzling,
but one equal light,
In paradisum deducant angeli;
[May the angels lead you into paradise.]

no noise nor silence,
but one equal music,

Texts

no foes nor friends,
but one equal identity,
no ends nor beginnings;
but one equal eternity.
After John Donne and Eric Milner-White

Chorus angelorum te suscipeat
Et cum Lazaro quondam paupere
Aeternam habeas requiem.
*[May the choir of angels receive you
and, with Lazarus, once poor,
may you have eternal rest.]*

Performers

Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass
Amelia Blackburn	Annenora Benians	Luke Gore	Thomas Allen
Esme Ellis	Olivia Earl	Joseph Morris	Peter Evans
Ciara Harman	Alicia Hunt	Robert Murray John	James Gooding
Grace Hindle	Kate Pinnell	Sequoia Ralph	Dominic Kwan
Emily Oxtoby	Kristin Polman	Daniel Ayers	Charlie Maggs
Lucy Mitten	Hannah Waterfield		Brooke Storey
Amelia Smith			Jack Templar-Johns
Sophia Vines			
Pascale Walker	Organist Andrew Dewar	Organ Assistant Luke Cherry	Director Rupert Gough

Biographies

Oliver Tarney

Oliver Tarney (b.1984) was born and educated in Lancaster before reading music at the University of Manchester. He completed a Master's degree in composition and trained as a teacher, combining academic study with a commitment to music education. He is currently Assistant Director of Music at Tiffin School, Kingston, following his role as Head of Academic Music and Composition at Winchester College.

His works are published by Oxford University Press, including *Missa Media Nocte*, *The Wise Men and the Star*, and *The Night Before Christmas*. *The Wise Men and the Star* has recently been recorded by The Sixteen for their forthcoming Christmas album. Other major works include *Lux Stellarum*, a requiem for the American Cathedral in Paris, first performed at St Sulpice, and *Majora Canamus*, commissioned for the Southern Cathedrals' Festival and broadcast on BBC Radio 3.

In 2019, his *St Mark Passion* was premiered at the St Endellion Easter Festival. The 2014 *Magnificat*, recorded by Serafine Chamber Choir & Sinfonia (Convivium Records) received widespread acclaim.

Additional recordings include *Maria Virgo Assumpta Est* with Suzi Digby's ORA Singers, and a set of Christmas pieces - *The Waiting Sky*, *Balulalow*, and *The Wise Men and the Star* - featured on Sansara's album *The Waiting Sky*.

Recent commissions include *A Hymn to St Luke*, written for the 200th anniversary of St Luke's Church, Chelsea, a work for Sonoro Chamber Choir's *Choral Inspirations* series, and the 2020 Festival Commission for St David's Cathedral. He was also commissioned to write the piece *I am: we are* for the National Youth Choir, performed at the Royal Albert Hall, celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Oliver is passionate about inspiring a love of music in schools, communities, and choirs.





Biographies

The Choir of Royal Holloway

The Choir of Royal Holloway is considered to be one of the finest mixed-voice collegiate choirs in Britain, with their recordings attracting top reviews from all major music publications. Created at the time of the foundation of Royal Holloway in 1886, the choir was originally only for women's voices. The mixed choir now comprises 24 Choral Scholars who undertake a busy schedule of weekly services, as well as concerts, international tours, recordings, and TV and radio broadcasts. They are the only college choir to give a weekly concert performance and during an average year give around 40 - 50 concerts with a particular specialism in contemporary music.

The choir has one of the busiest recording schedules of any collegiate choir with an extensive discography with Convivium, Decca, Hyperion, Naxos and Signum, amongst others. The choir is renowned for its performances of Nordic and Baltic music and has recorded works by Vytautas Miškinis, Rihards Dubra, Bo Hansson, Tõnu Kõrvits, and Ola Gjeilo to great acclaim.

The choir's recording of Matthew Coleridge's *Requiem* is already in the top 50 of Classic FM's "Hall of Fame". Other recent projects include two recordings of the music of Dan Locklair.

www.chapelchoir.co.uk

Biographies

Andrew Dewar

Andrew Dewar's musical career started at an early age; with a scholarship to Wells Cathedral School he studied the Organ with Rupert Gough and David Sanger. From 1999-2000 He was Organ Scholar at Wells Cathedral before moving to Germany where he studied at the Musikhochschule, Stuttgart, with Ludger Lohmann.

He was winner of the St. Alban's international organ competition – and has also won further competitions; inter alia Dublin, Wiesbaden, Berlin, Landau an der Isar, plus prizes in Montreal, Schramberg and Erfurt.

Andrew's concert diary has taken him on tours to Northern America, Russia and frequent engagements throughout Europe.

Andrew has been Organist at the American Cathedral, Paris, since 2010 where he is currently overseeing the major reconfiguration and restoration of the Cathedral's organ. Andrew is in demand as a teacher and has held

positions as professor of organ at the Royal College of Music in London, and visiting professor of organ at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin.



Biographies

Rupert Gough

Rupert Gough has been director of Choral Music and College Organist at Royal Holloway, University of London since 2005. He is also Organist and Director of Music at London's oldest surviving church, Saint Bartholomew the Great, which maintains a professional choir. At Royal Holloway Rupert has developed the choral programme to include weekly choral recitals, choral conducting courses and transformed the Chapel Choir into an elite group of 24 choral scholars. The Choir particularly came to prominence through their series of recordings for Hyperion Records and for their role in popularising contemporary composers from the Baltics States, USA and UK. Their recording *Winter Songs* of the music of Ola Gjeilo is one of Decca Classics most successful albums and was top of the US and UK classical charts. The choir is now greatly in demand for recording work from a variety of record labels, composers and orchestras and travels widely for concert

performances. He is an established reviewer of organ recordings and has a number of compositions, editions and arrangements published by OUP, UMP, Edition Peters and Carus Verlag.



Credits

Oliver Tarney Lux Stellarum

Recorded at Keble College Chapel, Oxford, 11 January 2025

Cover image

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Engineering / Mastering

Adaq Khan

Producer

Oliver Tarney



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