



A Lake Landscape at Sunset by John A Hignson Crimshaw (1836–1893)  
Christie's, London / Bridgeman Art Library, London

Composer: **Herbert Howells**  
(1892–1983)

Title: **Choral Music**

Artists: **Wells Cathedral Choir**  
**Rupert Gough** organ  
**Malcolm Archer** conductor

Catalogue No.: **CDH55456**  
(from CDA67494)

Release Date: **February 2014**

Total Duration: **79'36**

- 1 A Sequence for St Michael [10'59] 2 A Hymn for St Cecilia [3'17]
- 3 O pray for the peace of Jerusalem No 1 of *Four Anthems* [7'15]
- St George's Windsor Service [17'21] 4 Te Deum [10'47] 5 Benedictus [6'34]
- 6 I love all beautiful things [6'32] 7 Salve regina No 4 of *Four Anthems to the Blessed Virgin Mary* [4'42]
- New College Service [9'28] 8 Magnificat [6'16] 9 Nunc dimittis [3'12]
- Three Carol-Anthems [10'27] 10 A Spotless Rose [3'08] 11 Sing lullaby [3'28] 12 Here is the little door [3'51]
- Collegium Regale 'King's College Cambridge Service' [9'30] 13 Magnificat [5'15] 14 Nunc dimittis [4'15]

Recorded as Malcolm Archer's farewell from Wells Cathedral prior to his prestigious appointment to St Paul's in London, this generously filled album presents some of Howells's best choral works, some well known, others less so.

In 1944 Howells wrote a set of Morning Canticles for King's College, Cambridge. With the Evening Canticles recorded here coming the following year, the 'Coll. Reg.' settings immediately set the benchmark for twentieth-century liturgical composition and led to the composer being besieged by requests from cathedrals and collegiate chapels for other such 'custom-built' settings. It was the composer's innate understanding of the individual characteristics—acoustic, architecture and choral timbre—of each foundation which made these works so successful and popular. This programme includes the Morning Canticles written for St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle and the Evening Canticles which constitute the 'New College Service'.

Ever the master of the choral miniature, the *Three Carol-Anthems* are among Howells's most perennially popular works, having been recorded and performed across the globe. Several of the other pieces included here are less famous, but all display their composer's inimitable mastery of form and choral technique.

'The phrasing of Malcolm Archer's Wells Cathedral Choir is unobtrusively intelligent, Howells' long, powerfully expanding crescendos emerging as naturally evolving arcs in the ongoing argument. Tonal blend is excellent, and there is no superficial straining for effect whatsoever. This is genuinely devotional singing, technique placed at the disposal of the music's spiritual message. Rupert Gough's organ accompaniments are exemplary' (*BBC Music Magazine*)

'The sound is focused and radiant, the ensemble immaculate, and Rupert Gough provides charismatic organ accompaniment' (*The Scotsman*)

'Rupert Gough's accompaniments are tastefully executed and help make this portrait of the range and diversity of a side to Howells all too often taken for granted a highly worthwhile release' (*International Record Review*)