



COLCHESTER CHAMBER CHOIR

Director Roderick Earle

FAIRE IS THE HEAVEN

3 Motets

Justorum Animae
Beati Quorum Via
Coelos Ascendit Hodie

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Litany: Drop, drop slow tears
Set me as a seal

William Walton (1902-1983)

Agnus Dei

Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

O Magnum Mysterium

Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

They are at rest

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Faire is the heaven

William Harris (1883-1973)

Nunc Dimittis

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

3 Motets Charles Villiers Stanford

Justorum Animae

Justorum animae in manu Dei sunt,
et non tanget illos tormentum mortis.
Visi sunt oculis insipientium mori,
illi autem sunt in pace.

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and the torment of death shall not touch them.
In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die;
but they are in peace.

(the Book of Wisdom)

Beati Quorum

Beati quorum via integra est,
qui ambulant in lege Domini.

Blessed are they whose way is pure,
who walk in the law of the Lord.

(Psalm 119, verse 1)

Coelos ascendit hodie

Coelos ascendit hodie
Jesus Christus Rex Gloriam:
Sedet ad Patris dexteram,
Gubernat coelum et terram.
Iam finem habent omnia
Patris Davidis carmina.
Iam Dominus cum Domino
Sedet in Dei solio:
In hoc triumpho maximo
Benedicamus Domino.
Laudetur Sancta Trinitas,
Deo dicamus gratias,
Alleluia. Amen.

Today into the heavens has ascended
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Alleluia!
He sits at the Father's right hand,
and rules heaven and earth, Alleluia!
Now have been fulfilled all of
Father David's songs,
Now God is with God, Alleluia!
He sits upon the royal throne of God,
in this his greatest triumph, Alleluia!
Let us bless the Lord:
Let the Holy Trinity be praised,
let us give thanks to the Lord,
Alleluia! Amen.

(12th century hymn)

A Litany: Drop, drop, slow tears William Walton

Drop, drop, slow tears,	Cease not, wet eyes,	In your deep floods
And bathe those beautiful feet	His mercy to entreat;	Drown all my faults and fears;
Which brought from Heaven	To cry for vengeance	Nor let His eye
The news and Prince of Peace.	Sin doth never cease.	See sin, but through my tears.

(Phineas Fletcher. 1580–1650)

Set me as a seal

Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm:
for love is strong as death;
Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.

(Song of Solomon)

Agnus Dei Samuel Barber

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God,
who take away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God,
who take away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God,
who take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

(from the Ordinary of the Mass)

O Magnum Mysterium Morten Lauridsen

O magnum mysterium,
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,
jacentem in praesepio!

Beata Virgo, cujus viscera
meruerunt portare Dominum Christum.

Alleluia

O great mystery,
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord,
lying in a manger!

Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.

Alleluia.

(responsorial chant from Matins of Christmas)

They are at rest Edward Elgar

They are at rest.

We may not stir the heav'n of their repose

By rude invoking voice, or prayer address

In waywardness to those

Who in the mountain grotts of Eden lie,

And hear the fourfold river as it murmurs by.

And soothing sounds

Blend with the neighb'ring waters as they glide;

Posted along the haunted garden's bounds,

Angelic forms abide,

Echoing, as words of watch, o'er lawn and grove

The verses of that hymn which Seraphs chant above.

They are at rest.

(John Henry Newman, 1801-1890)



Faire is the heaven William Harris

Faire is the heaven where happy soules have place
In full enjoyment of felicitie;
Whence they do still behold the glorious face
Of the Divine, Eternall Majestie;
Yet farre more faire be those bright Cherubins
Which all with golden wings are overdight.
And those eternall burning Seraphins
Which from their faces dart out fiery light;
Yet fairer than they both and much more bright
Be the Angels and Archangels
Which attend on God's owne person without rest or end.
These then in faire each other farre excelling
As to the Highest they approach more neare,
Yet is that Highest farre beyond all telling
Fairer than all the rest which there appeare
Though all their beauties joynd together were;
How then can mortal tongue hope to expresse
The image of such endlesse perfectnesse?
(Edmund Spenser, c1552-1599)

Nunc Dimittis Gustav Holst

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine,
secundum verbum tuum in pace:
Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum
Quod parasti ante faciem
omnium populorum:
Lumen ad revelationem gentium,
et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.

Gloria Patri, et Filio,
et Spiritui Sancto,
Sicut erat in principio,
et nunc, et semper,
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart
in peace according to Thy word.
For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared
before the face of all people
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.
(Luke 2:29–32)