

Vaughan Williams

Hymns and Choral Music

Come down, O Love Divine • For All the Saints
Valiant-for-Truth • O Taste and See
Three Choral Hymns • Te Deum

Choir of Worcester Cathedral
Choir of Westminster Abbey

collect

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

1	Come Down, O Love Divine Down Ampney	3:30
2	O Taste and See	1:29
3	We've been awhile Children's Christmas Song	2:58
4	Te Deum	7:07
5	Wither's Rocking Hymn	3:09
6	For All the Saints Sine Nomine	2:06
7	Valiant-for-Truth	5:16
8	Prayer to the Father of Heaven	4:20
	Three Choral Hymns	14:24
9	I Easter Hymn	4:03
10	II Christmas Hymn	6:06
11	III Whitsunday Hymn	4:09
12	Sanctus* from Communion Service in G minor	2:25

13

Festival Te Deum*

7:19
TT 54:52

Choir of Worcester Cathedral
Christopher Robinson
Choir of Westminster Abbey*
Douglas Guest

Vaughan Williams: Hymns and Choral Music

1 Come Down, O Love Divine

Come down, O Love divine,
Seek Thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with Thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;
And let Thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till he become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes His dwelling.

Bianco da Siena
Translation: R.F. Littledale

2 O Taste and See

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is:
Blest is the man that trusteth in him.

3 We've been awhile

We've been awhile a wandering
Amongst the leaves so green
But now we come a wassailing
So plainly to be seen:
For it's Christmas time.
When we travel far and near;
May God bless you and send you
A happy new year.

We are not daily beggars
That beg from door to door;
We are your neighbour's children,
Whom you have seen before:
For it's Christmas time etc.

We've got a little purse
Made of Leathern ratchin skin;
We want a little money
To line it well within:
For it's Christmas time etc.

Call up the Butler of this house
Likewise the Mistress too,
And all the little children
That round the table go:
For it's Christmas time etc.

Bring us out a table
And spread it out with cloth,
Bring us out a mouldy cheese
And some of your Christmas loaf:
For it's Christmas time etc.

Good Master and good Mistress,
While you're sitting by the fire,
Pray think of us poor children
That wander in the mire:
For it's Christmas time etc.

Folksong

4 Te Deum

We praise Thee, O God: we acknowledge Thee to
be the Lord.

All the earth doth worship Thee: the Father
everlasting.

To Thee all Angels cry aloud: the Heavens and all
the powers therein.

To Thee Cherubin, and Seraphin continually do
cry,

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of Thy
Glory.

The glorious company of the Apostles praise Thee.
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise
Thee.

The noble army of Martyrs praise Thee.

The Holy Church throughout all the world doth
acknowledge Thee;

The Father of an infinite Majesty;
Thine honourable, true, and only Son;

Also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.

Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ.

Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.

When Thou tookest upon Thee to deliver man,

Thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.

When Thou hadst overcome the sharpness of
death, Thou didst open the Kingdom of
Heaven to all believers.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the Glory
of the Father.

We believe that Thou shalt come to be our Judge.

We therefore pray Thee, help Thy servants, who
Thou hast redeemed with Thy precious blood.

Make them to be numbered with Thy Saints in
glory everlasting.

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine
heritage.

Govern them, and lift them up for ever.

Day by day we magnify Thee;

And we worship Thy name, ever world without end.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without
sin.

O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.

O Lord, let Thy mercy lighten upon us, as our
trust is in Thee.

O Lord, in Thee have I trusted; let me never be
confounded.

5 Wither's Rocking Hymn

Sweet baby, sleep! What ails my dear?

What ails my darling thus to cry?

Be still, my child, and lend thine ear

To hear me sing thy lullaby.

My pretty lamb, forbear to weep;

Be still, my dear; sweet baby, sleep.

Whilst thus thy lullaby I sing,

For thee great blessings ripening be;

Thine Eldest Brother is a King,

And hath a kingdom bought for thee.
Sweet baby, then, forbear to weep;
Be still, my babe; sweet baby, sleep.

When God with us was dwelling here,
In little babes he took delight:
Such innocents as thou, my dear,
Are ever precious in his sight.
Sweet baby, then, forbear to weep;
Be still, my babe; sweet baby, sleep.

George Wither

6 For All the Saints

For all the saints who from their labours rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesu, be for ever blest.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their
might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness still their one true light.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win, with them, the victor's crown of gold.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

7 Valiant-for-Truth

After this it was noised abroad that Mr Valiant-for-truth was taken with a summons...; and had this for a token that the summons was true, 'That his pitcher was broken at the fountain'. When he understood it, he called for his friends, and told them of it. Then, said he, 'I am going to my Father's, and though with great difficulty I am got

hither, yet now I do not repent me of all the trouble I have been at to arrive where I am. My sword, I give to him that shall succeed me in my pilgrimage, and my courage and skill, to him that can get it. My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me, that I have fought his battles, who now will be my rewarder'. When the day that he must go hence, was come, many accompanied him to the riverside, into which, as he went, he said, 'Death, where is thy sting?' And as he went down deeper, he said, 'Grave where is thy victory?' So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side.

John Bunyan

8 Prayer to the Father of Heaven

O radiant Luminary of light interminable,
Celestial Father, potential God of might.
Of heaven and earth, O Lord incomparable,
Of all perfections the Essential most Perfite!

O Maker, that formed day and night,
Whose power comprehendeth every place!
Mine heart, my mind, my thought, my whole delight
Is, after this life, to see Thy glorious Face.

Whose magnificence is incomprehensible,
All arguments of reason which far doth exceed,
Whose Deity doubtless is indivisible,
From whom all goodness and virtue doth proceed.

Of Thy support all creatures have need;
Assist me, good Lord, and grant me of Thy grace
To live to Thy pleasure in word, thought and
deed.

And, after this life, to see Thy glorious Face.

John Skelton

Three Choral Hymns

9 I. Easter Hymn

Hallelujah,
Christ is now risen again,
From His death and all His pain;
Therefore will we merry be,
And rejoice in Him gladly.
Kyrieleyson.

Had He not risen again,
We had been lost, this is plain;
But since He is risen indeed,
Let us love Him with all speed.
Kyrieleyson.

Now is time of gladness,
To sing of the Lord's goodness;
Therefore glad now will we be,
And rejoice in Him only.
Kyrieleyson.
Bishop Myles Coverdale (from the German)

10 II. Christmas Hymn

Now blessed be Thou, Christ Jesu;
Thou art man borne, this is true;
The angels made a merry noise,
Yet have we more cause to rejoice.
Kyrieleyson.

The blessed son of God only
In a crib full poor did lie;
With our poor flesh and our poor blood
Was cloth'd that ever lasting good.
Kyrieleyson.

He that made Heaven and earth of nought
In our flesh hath our health brought;

For our sake made He himself full small,
That reigneth Lord and King over all.
Kyrieleyson.

The Lord Christ Jesu, God's son dear,
Was a guest and a stranger here;
Us for to bring from misery,
That we might live eternally.
Kyrieleyson.

Eternal light doth now appear
To the world both far and near;
It shineth full clear ev'n at midnight,
Making us children of His light.
Kyrieleyson.

Into this world right poor came He,
To make us rich in mercy;
Therefore would He our sins forgive,
That we with Him in heaven might live.
Kyrieleyson.

All this did He for us freely,
For to declare His great mercy;
All Christendom be merry therefore
And give Him thanks evermore.
Kyrieleyson.

Bishop Myles Coverdale (from the German)

11 III. Whitsunday Hymn

Come Holy Spirit most blessed Lord;
Fulfil our hearts now with Thy grace,
And make our minds of one accord,
Kindle them with love in every place.
Hallelujah.

O Holy light most principal,
The word of life shew unto us,

And cause us to know God over all
For our own Father most gracious.
Hallelujah.

O Holy fire and comfort most sweet,
Fill our hearts with faith and boldness,
To abide by Thee, in cold and heat,
Content to suffer for righteousness.
Hallelujah.

O Lord, Thou forgivest our trespass,
And callest the folk of every country
To the right faith and trust of Thy grace,
That we may give thanks and sing to Thee.
Hallelujah.

Bishop Myles Coverdale (from the German)

12 Sanctus

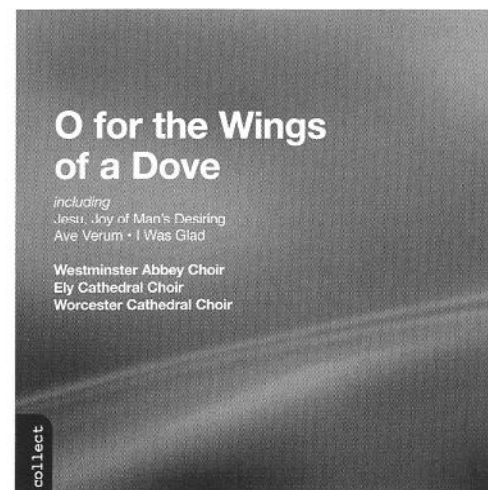
Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God of hosts!
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Glory be to Thee,
O Lord most high.

13 Festival Te Deum

For text see track **4**

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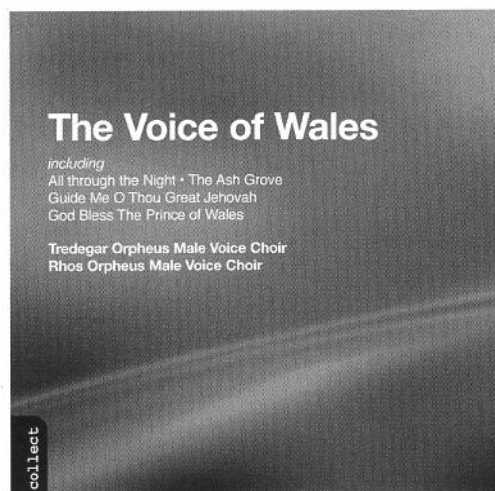


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Executive producer Brian Couzens

Sound engineer Brian Couzens

Digital remastering Peter Reynolds

Design Tim Feeley

Booklet typeset by Michael White-Robinson

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Chandos Records Ltd, Colchester, Essex CO2 8HQ, England

Printed in the EU

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'...hymn fan or not, this choral music, as performed by the choirs of Worcester Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, is a pleasure to the ear.'

BBC Music Magazine

