



Errollyn Wallen

Mighty River

Exploring themes of slavery and freedom, *Mighty River* combines contemporary classical techniques with spirituals which were introduced to Hull in 1871 by the Fisk Jubilee Singers – an African-American a cappella choir of ex-slaves. The piece, written for orchestra, takes its inspiration from William Wilberforce the English politician, philanthropist and leader of the movement to abolish the slave trade who was, very fittingly, a native of Hull.



Artists: Orchestra X | Andrew Morley *conductor*

Timing: 16'22

About Errollyn Wallen

Errollyn Wallen is lauded for her genuine, free-spirited approach to contemporary composition and wideranging musicianship. Born in Belize, she read Music at Goldsmiths', King's College, London and King's College, Cambridge. Errollyn's award-winning music includes many works for orchestra, ballet, opera, theatre, chamber music and film. Her music has been performed throughout the world, in outer space and recorded on many compilations. She was awarded an MBE in 2007 for services to music in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. She was the first black woman to have her work performed at the BBC Proms and the first woman recipient of the Ivor Novello Award for Classical Music.



Mighty River is supported by the RVW Trust and The Radcliffe Trust. It was commissioned by Rev John and Mrs Carol Wates & produced by Oxford Contemporary Music.

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The performance of *Mighty River* was recorded and broadcast by the BBC at Hull City Hall on BBC Radio 3.

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