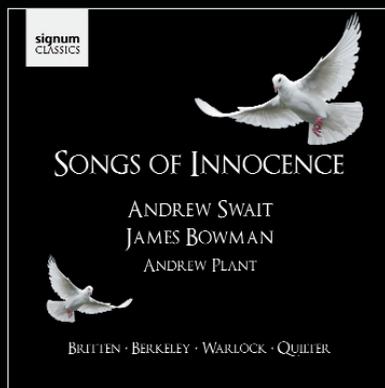


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Songs of Innocence
Andrew Swait, James Bowman, Andrew Plant
SIGCD128

The initial impetus for Songs of Innocence came from Andrew Swait who was extremely keen to investigate repertoire rarely sung by a treble; indeed, several of the songs featured are world premiere recordings.

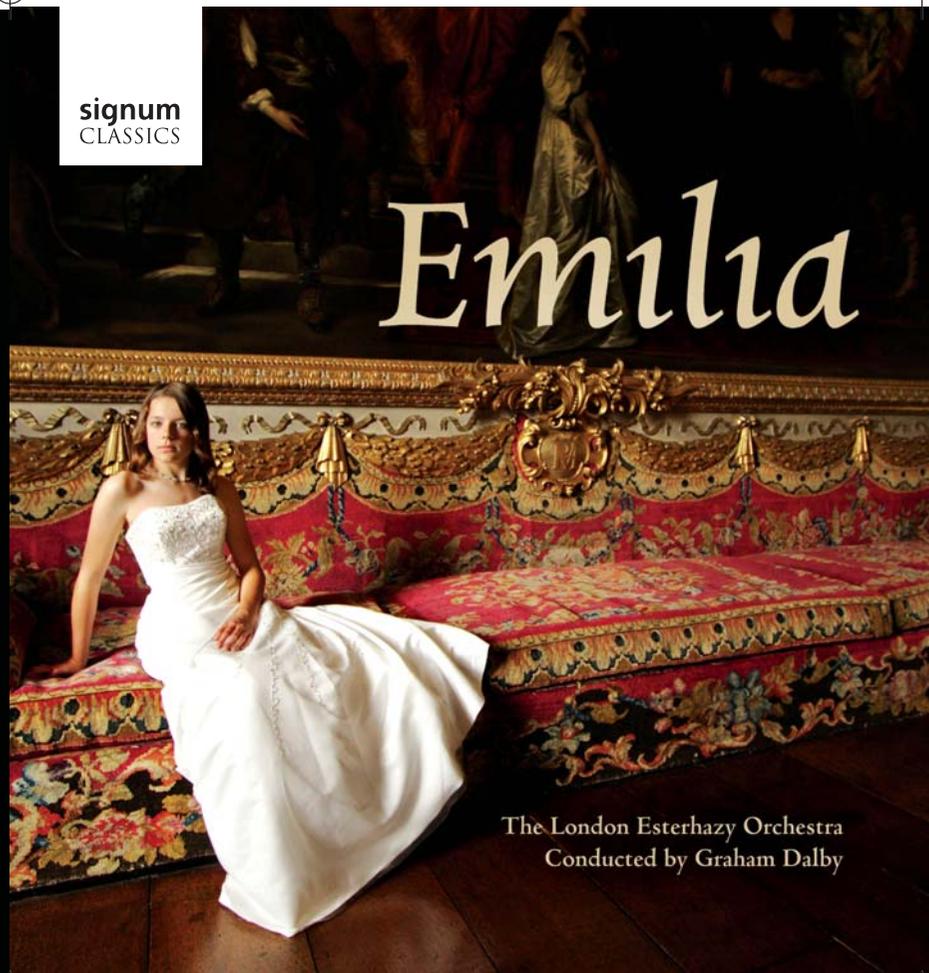
After rehearsals with Andrew Plant in the summer of 2007, Andrew Swait's immense enthusiasm for Britten's unpublished student works was soon evident and is as evident in this fresh recording a year on. A wonderful collaboration of English and American 20th century song.

"Swait's voice is clear, bright, and tuned with innate precision, ringing with carefree but studious childhood. Bowman, worldly and artistic ... with a characteristic elegance and expressivity"
The Times

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CLASSICS

Emilia



The London Esterhazy Orchestra
Conducted by Graham Dalby

EMILIA DALBY

1.	Laschia ch'io Pianga	George Frideric Handel	[3.15]
2.	Nella Fantasia with Peter Whyman <i>saxophone</i>	Ennio Morricone, arr. Andrew Keenan	[3.32]
3.	I'll Walk with God	Nicholas Brodsky, arr. Andrew Keenan	[3.07]
4.	Over the Hills and Far Away	Trad. arr. Ned Bennett	[2.29]
5.	IF Conducted by Andrew Keenan Peter Whyman <i>saxophone</i>	Michael Nyman, arr. Andrew Keenan	[4.37]
6.	Finlandia	Jean Sibelius, arr. Colin Skinner	[4.53]
7.	Panis Angelicus with Andrew Busher <i>tenor</i>	César Franck	[3.04]
8.	When a Knight Won his Spurs Narration by John Touhey	Anon. arr. Ben Lamb	[3.54]
9.	Miri It Is / Sumer is Icumen In	Anon. arr. Ben Lamb	[2.02]
10.	Suo Gån	Trad. arr. Don Innes	[4.41]
11.	The Last Rose of Summer	Trad. arr. Colin Cambell	[3.13]
12.	Steal Away	Trad. arr. Clive Dunstall	[4.00]
13.	Ave Maria Conducted by Ben Lamb	Ben Lamb	[2.34]
14.	God Be In My Head	Leo Forsdyke	[1.58]
	Total Timings		[47.21]

EMILIA DALBY SOPRANO
THE LONDON ESTERHAZY ORCHESTRA
GRAHAM DALBY CONDUCTOR
THE SARUM VOICES

www.signumrecords.com

A Note from Emilia

My first album is full of magical musical memories for me - the earliest being When a Knight Won His Spurs which I heard sung by the girls at my first school (The Study in Wimbledon), when I was just six, and it soon became my favourite song. My family visits to Finland in the summer meant that I heard Swedish spoken around me and once my Dad played the Finlandia Hymn on an old fiddle he found hanging on the wall to my Finland/Swedish Grandfather who willed with emotion.

Back in England, Mrs Brockles, my music teacher prepared me well for my audition at Salisbury Cathedral with Panis Angelicus so it was wonderful to record it with Andy Busher (my Godfather). At Salisbury Cathedral School I met Mr. Lamb, who coached me and composed a beautiful Ave Maria. Four wonderful years of blending as a chorister at Salisbury Cathedral are over and now I can develop my solo voice.

I hope you enjoy the album as much as I enjoyed recording it.

Emilia xx



Emilia opens her album in keeping with the cover picture, in rich baroque style with the great Anglo/German composer George Frideric Handel whose breathtakingly simple aria **Laschia ch'io Pianga** (let me weep over my cruel fate) is performed with strings and a two-manual George II harpsichord with authentic baroque decorations. Italian film composer Ennio Morricone's 'Gabriel's Oboe' from the film *The Mission* is set in the same baroque period and is sung as **Nella Fantasia**, orchestrated for strings and woodwind with Emilia's high soaring soprano joined by Peter Whyman's soprano saxophone.

The album continues with another piece from the cinema. **I'll Walk With God** was a huge Hollywood blockbuster by Nicholas Brodsky written for Mario Lanza in *The Student Prince*. This version is sung with great conviction against full orchestra that includes a piccolo trumpet feature.

From *The Beggar's Opera* to ITV's television series *Sharpe*, **Over The Hills and Far Away** is a catchy four hundred year old folk tune seen through the eyes of young Lady Jane Grey with new lyrics by the conductor and given a sparkling, light-hearted arrangement by Ned Bennett.

The moving work **IF** allows the listener the first chance to hear Michael Nyman's haunting melody sung as the composer intended - by the reflections of an innocent child. Emilia sings the voice of the young Dutch diarist, Anne Frank, bewildered as to why the world about her is not a better place.

Opening as a distant rumble of warning, Emilia revisits her Viking roots (she holds a Finnish passport) with a veritable symphonic poem based around the call to arms from Sibelius' **Finlandia Hymn**. 'O Finland Se' is sung in Jean Sibelius' mother tongue of Swedish with rich fugal quotes from Sibelius' 2nd Symphony in a daring arrangement by Colin Skinner.

No young soprano's debut album would be complete without the lovely French masterpiece **Panis Angelicus** by César Frank, re-scored for oboe and strings with the fine tenor voice of Andrew Busher singing in the duet section.

Emilia's imagination next takes her back to the Age of Chivalry with chanting monks and strange medieval instruments playing the Agincourt Song as she sings her favourite school hymn **When a Knight Won his Spurs**, and she hears the rousing words of Shakespeare's "This Royal Throne of Kings...this England!" (read by the ex-BBC World

Service presenter John Touhey) before the monks' procession departs.

The Sarum Voices lament the long cold winter nights in **Miri It Is**, a gutsy song from the time of Chaucer but Emilia invokes them to usher in the sunlight with **Sumer Is Icumen In**, a roundelay popular with children since the 13th century and one of the earliest songs on record. The unexpected arrival of a full modern string section combines the two in a complicated finale cleverly woven.

The Last Rose of Summer is a wistful Irish parlour song from the 19th century and, despite its sad lyrics, has remained a popular favourite with singers and listeners alike.

Suo Gân, a beautiful Welsh lullaby, is performed in a new and original version with traditional harp but with a sweeping string counter-melody.

Emilia, The Sarum Voices and The Esterhazy Orchestra all come together to perform a wonderful version of the powerful and wistful spiritual **Steal Away** in as an original arrangement as you are likely to hear with a final tubular bell sounding as a distant clocktower.

The album closes with the talents of two contemporary composers with two beautiful prayers specially composed. **Ave Maria** was written by Benjamin Lamb whilst organ scholar at Salisbury Cathedral. Ben is Emilia's voice coach and director of Sarum Voices. Leo Forsdyke's miniature gem **God Be In My Head** is scored for divisi strings and viola solo in the English Pastoral style of Vaughan Williams. The text is from the Sarum Prayerbook of 1545 and continues Emilia's Salisbury influence.

© Graham Dalby

BIOGRAPHY

EMILIA DALBY

Emilia Dalby was born in London in 1995 but migrated to Wiltshire after winning a choral scholarship to Salisbury Cathedral where she sang for four years as a chorister. In this capacity she toured Italy and Austria performing in many beautiful cathedrals including San Marco in Venice and Vienna and Salzburg Cathedrals. As a soloist she began at a remarkably early age, performing before royalty aged nine. She has performed live with the band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines in London and has sung Morricone's 'Nella

Fantasia' in Florence and in Wilton House, Salisbury (pictured on the front cover). In a relatively short career, she has sung to Princess Anne, Archbishop Tutu, Sting, Will Young, Davina McCall, Ben Ainsley and many others. Emilia has recorded the opening title music of 'Learning to Walk', a film by Ricky Tomlinson, and has been the subject of an ITV documentary. Her debut album spans seven centuries of music and is sung in six languages. Emilia has two great passions, music and fashion design.



© Rebecca Westcott

We are most grateful to the backers who made this album possible: Johnny Busher, Christopher 'Gumpty' Cooper, Sarah Covell, Phillip Gray, Oliver Jury and Omid Kamshad.
Thank you so much for your confidence in this musical project.

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Orchestral Recording - Andrew Keenan and Gareth Huw Davies
Mastering Engineer - Richard Sutcliffe

Photographs of Emilia were taken in Wilton House, Salisbury, UK, by kind permission of the Earl of Pembroke

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