



ANNA LAPWOOD

organist • conductor • broadcaster

BIOGRAPHY

Anna Lapwood is an organist, conductor and broadcaster, and holds the position of Director of Music at Pembroke College (Cambridge), Associate Artist of the Royal Albert Hall (London) and Artist in Association with the BBC Singers. In 2023 she was awarded the prestigious 'Gamechanger' Award from the Royal Philharmonic Society, and signed to SONY Classical as an exclusive recording artist.

Having made her debut for the BBC Proms as a soloist in Saint-Saëns 'Organ Symphony' with The Hallé conducted by Sir Mark Elder in 2021, Anna gives her Proms recital debut with her programme 'Moon and Stars' in July 2023. Anna regularly performs concertos with leading symphony orchestras and conductors, has guested at Classic FM Live and collaborated with artists including Alison Balsom, Bonobo and Benedict Cumberbatch. Highlights of 2023/4 include concerts on the East and West coast of the United States including her recital debut at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles.

Anna's debut solo organ album 'Images' was released on Signum Records in 2021 and features her transcription for organ of Britten's 'Four Sea Interludes' from "Peter Grimes". Three further albums with The Choirs of Pembroke College have also been released on Signum to great acclaim. Under Anna's direction, the Choirs guested on "To Shiver the Sky" on Decca with multi-Grammy-winning composer, Christopher Tin, recorded at Abbey Road Studios. Signing exclusively to SONY in 2023, the relationship launched with an EP - 'Midnight Sessions at the Royal Albert Hall' - to be followed by a new album later in the year.

Making her TV presenting debut hosting coverage of BBC Young Musician, she went on to present a televised Prom from the Royal Albert Hall. In 2022, she served as Chair of the Jury for BBC Young Musician and an adjudicator for the televised Welsh choral competition, Côr Cymru. As a radio broadcaster, she is a regular contributor to BBC Radio 3 and Radio 4 alongside independent stations and has been featured in multiple global television and radio programmes and podcasts.

Anna is a terrific protagonist for her instrument, the organ. She is a natural communicator and reaches a huge audience through her concerts and via social media with over 1 million followers across all platforms, amassing tens of millions of views in a short space of time. Anna's passion for the organ is matched by her mission to support girls and women in music. She was the first female in Magdalen College Oxford's 560-year history to be awarded the Organ Scholarship and since then has run regular organ workshops for young players around the country, hosted the Cambridge Organ Experience for Girls and organised an annual 24-hour 'Bachathon' for to raise money to support musicians in Zambia.

A strong advocate for music education at home and abroad, Anna is dedicated to bringing music to children of all backgrounds. Her commitment to equality and diversity is evident in almost every aspect of her life and work, and new music that she has commissioned features in her recitals across Europe and North America. "Gregoriana" - an anthology of 12 new organ pieces by female composers, curated and edited by Anna for Stainer & Bell - was awarded Presto Music's Publication of the Year in 2022. Her own compositions are published by Boosey & Hawkes.

Having spent some years being encouraged to "play like a man", Anna is proud and humbled to see so many adopt her hashtag #playlikeagirl.



IN THE PRESS

[The New York Times](#)

"She had rightly become "the world's most visible organist"

[Gramophone](#)

"Imaginative, open-minded and a brilliant musician, the organist and conductor Anna Lapwood is the dream ambassador for classical music."

[ISM](#)

"She's broken new ground as a young woman in helping to bring the organ world into the 21st century"

[The Evening Standard](#)

"[Anna Lapwood] bringing classical music to the social media generations is one of four new associate artists appointed by the Royal Albert Hall in a bid to reach a younger audience."

[The Sunday Times](#)

"She is much more than a gifted organist, choral conductor and social media sensation – she's a star on a mission"

[The I Newspaper](#)

"TikTok organist told to 'play like a man' is leading musical gender equality movement"

[Classic FM](#)

"This rising star in classical music is fighting for more women to play an instrument which has long been considered a male occupation: the organ."

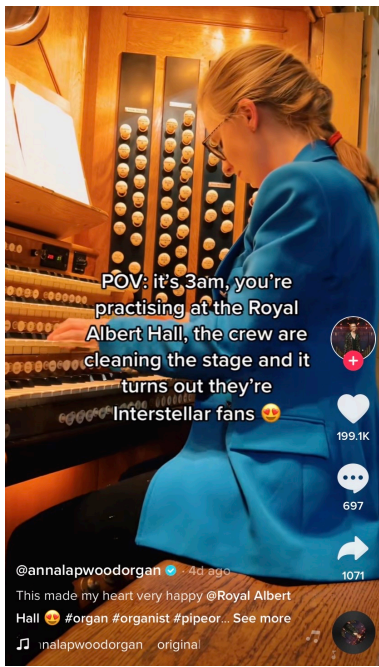
[BBC Music Magazine](#)

"Her life is full of awesome statistics."

[Music Teacher Magazine](#)

"Anna Lapwood has already done much to bring organ playing and choral singing into the 21st century and inspire a future generation of musicians."






[Interstellar - Royal Albert Hall](#)



[Bonobo Concert - Royal Albert Hall](#)

TIKTOK

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Message

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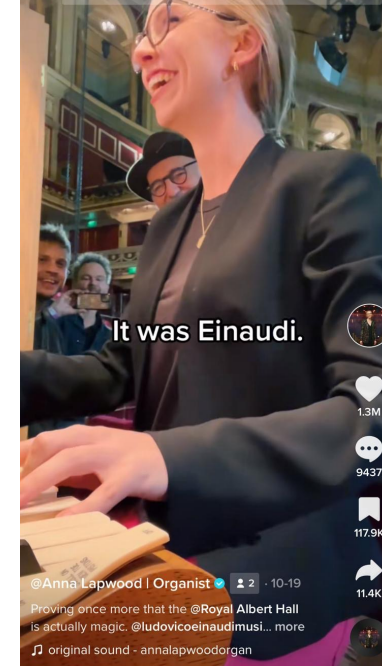
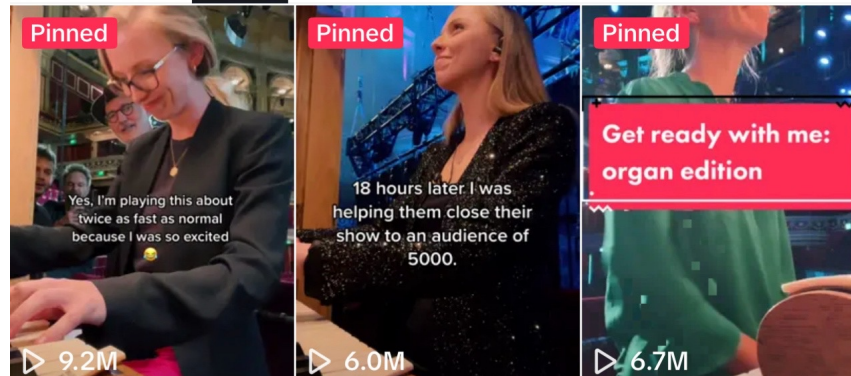
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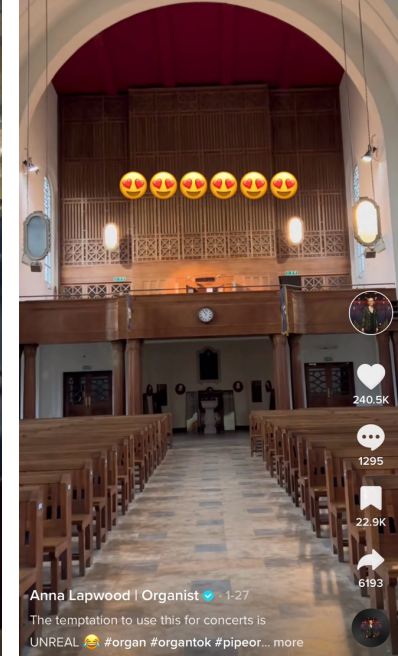
Welcome to #OrganTok 🥰
Organist, Conductor, Broadcaster
#PlayLikeAGirl

🔗 <https://lnk.bio/annalapwood>

🗨️ Q&A



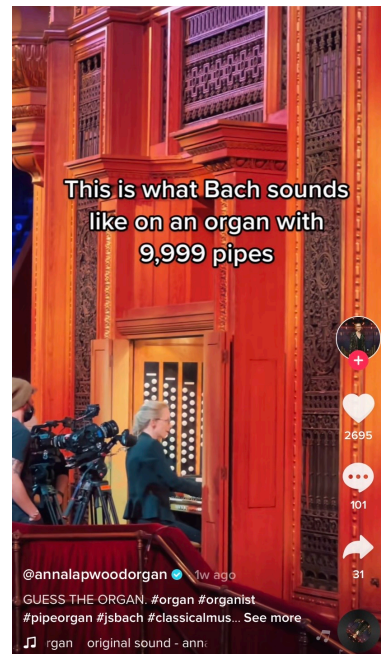
[Ludovico Einaudi - Royal Albert Hall](#)



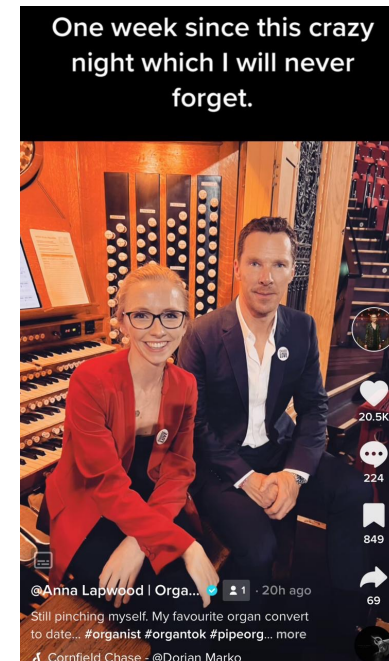
[Playback Organ - Royal Hospital School](#)



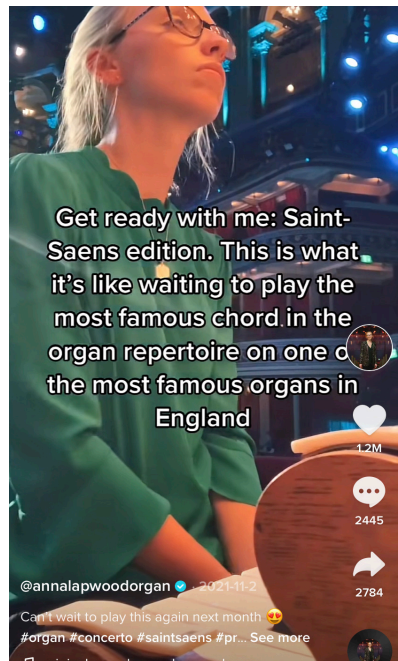
[A Birthday request - Leeds Town Hall](#)



[Bach - Royal Albert Hall](#)

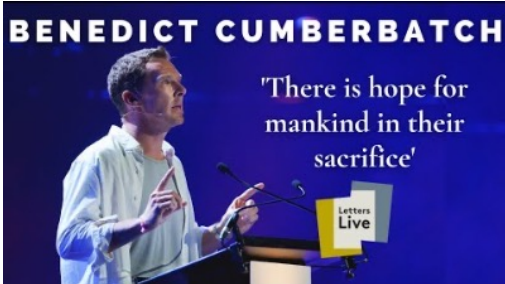


[Benedict Cumberbatch - Royal Albert Hall](#)



[Saint-Saens - Royal Albert Hall](#)

VIDEOS: PERFORMANCES



[Letters Live with Benedict Cumberbatch at Royal Albert Hall](#)



[Bonobo - 'Otomo' at Royal Albert Hall](#)



[J.S Bach - Fantasia at Royal Albert Hall for Classica FM](#)



[Patrick Gower - Toccata at St David's Hall, Cardiff for Radio 3](#)



[George Baker - Sussex Carol - at Royal Albert Hall for Classic FM](#)



[Laura Mvula - Sing to the Moon with Pembroke College Choir](#)



[Caroline Shaw - And the Swallow with Pembroke College Choir](#)



[Over the Rainbow- NHS Chorus 19](#)



[Erik Esenvalds - Stars with Pembroke College Choir](#)

VIDEOS: INTERVIEWS AND PRESENTING



[The One Show: Royal Albert Hall](#)



[BBC London News: Royal Albert Hall Associate Artist](#)



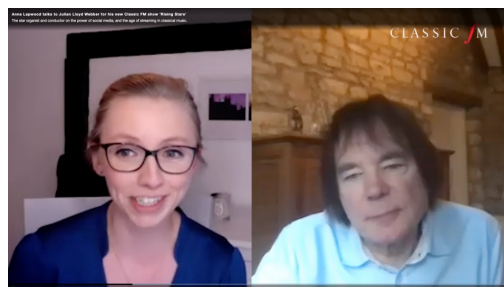
[ITV News London: Royal Albert Hall](#)



[Beauty in Sound: Recital and Interview](#)



[Classic FM: Anna Lapwood: 'Young Girls Can be Organists Too'](#)



[Classic FM's 30 under 30 interview with Julian Lloyd-Webber](#)



[In Conversation with John Rutter](#)



[The Organ Show at Freemasons' Hall - Royal College of Organists](#)



[In Conversation with Caroline Shaw](#)



[Britain's Christmas Story - Gareth Malone, Anna Lapwood & the Choirs of Pembroke College, Cambridge](#)

RECORDINGS

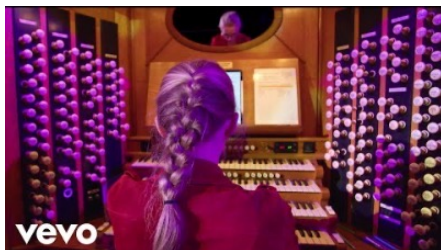
Midnight Sessions at the Royal Albert Hall

Release Date: 21 April 2023

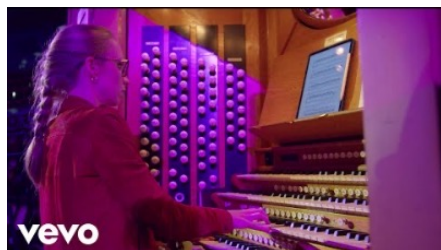
Anna's first release since signing to SONY Classical is a 5 track EP "Midnight Sessions at the Royal Albert Hall". The new EP features a selection of film music transcriptions that Anna has worked on during her night-time practice sessions at the Royal Albert Hall.

"Over the last 11 months I've been lucky enough to be let into the Royal Albert Hall in the middle-of-the night for practice sessions on the hall's magnificent organ. As I've explored the strange, beautiful and wonderful colours that it has to offer, I've written a set of new film music transcriptions with that specific instrument in mind, capturing some of the magic that I feel in that iconic building after hours."

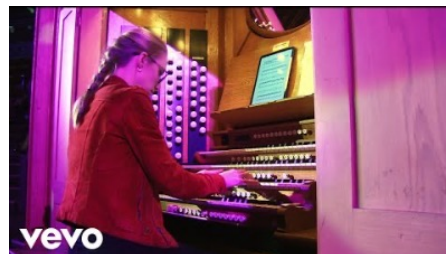
Davy Jones (From "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest")



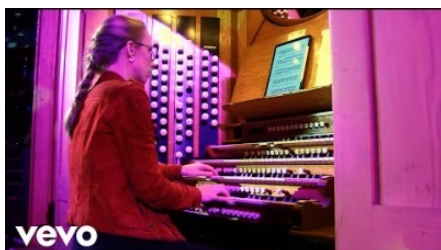
Chevaliers De Sangreal (From "The Da Vinci Code")



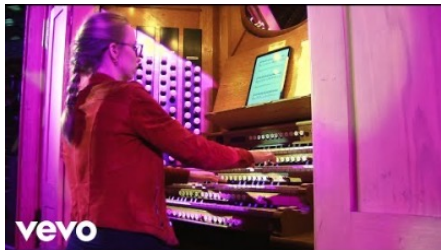
Cornfield Chase (From "Interstellar")



Anna Lapwood - No Time For Caution (From "Interstellar")



Anna Lapwood - Test Drive (From "How To Train Your Dragon")



Tracklist:

1. Cornfield Chase (From "Interstellar")
2. Test Drive (From "How To Train Your Dragon")
3. Davy Jones (From "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest")
4. Chevaliers De Sangreal (From "The Da Vinci Code")
5. No Time For Caution (From "Interstellar")

RECORDINGS

A Pembroke Christmas

Release date: 14th October 2022

Returning for their third album on Signum Classics, Anna and The Choirs of Pembroke College, Cambridge present their first Christmas album featuring a wide range of festive repertoire from traditional carols to works by contemporary composers including Sir James MacMillan and Melissa Dunphy. In addition, the album premieres three new works written by the Pembroke Girls' Choir including an arrangement of the familiar carol Gaudete.

REVIEWS

"refreshing and highly imaginative."

[John Rutter](#)

"Something special clearly happened during the recording sessions, sparked perhaps by the alchemy of music made by friends. The results are exquisitely beautiful and utterly enchanting"

[Apple Music](#)

"What makes this album unique is a trio of carol arrangements developed in rehearsal by the choristers themselves."

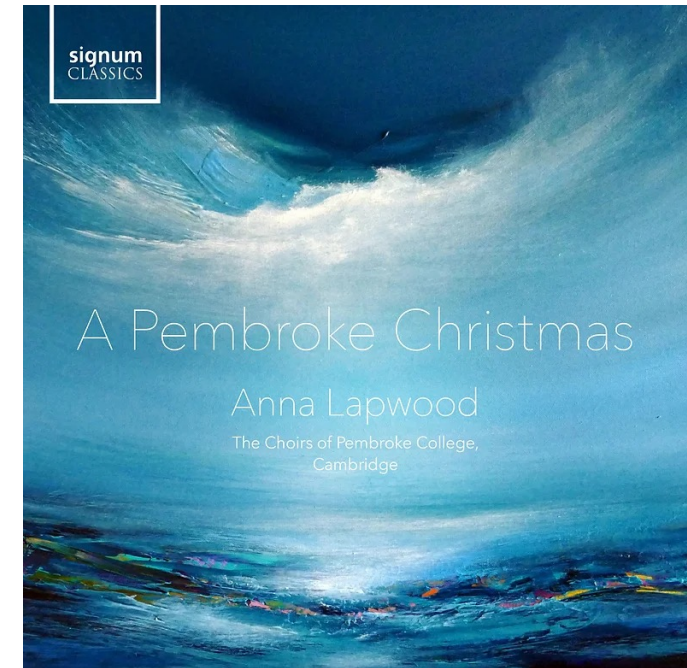
[Gramophone](#)

"Highlights include a numinous take on MacMillan's O Radiant Dawn, Ailsa McTernan's soaring solo in Patricia Van Ness's 'Archangelus' and a performance of Kerensa Brigg's A Tender Shoot, which shows the Chapel Choirs' vibrant tonal blend and intelligent enunciation at their best. Three carols composed by the Girls' Choir add further interest to an inspiring recital."

[BBC Music Magazine](#)

"The repertoire has been well chosen in such a way as to separate the disc out from the usual run of Christmas fare. The quality of every piece... is very high and though the music is largely contemporary it's all accessible and enjoyable to hear. The performances are uniformly excellent. The two Pembroke College choirs have clearly been prepared very well by Anna Lapwood; the singing is disciplined and accomplished...The programme contains many challenges but all of them are successfully met...This is an enterprising disc which will give a lot of pleasure at Christmas"

[Musicweb International](#)



Track Listing:

1. The Nine Orders of the Angels: II. Archangelus - Patricia Van Ness
2. Venite, Gaudete! - Adrian Peacock
3. Halcyon Days - Melissa Dunphy
4. O Oriens - Melissa Dunphy
5. O Radiant Dawn - James MacMillan
6. I Sing of a Maiden - Emma Johnson
7. A Tender Shoot - Kerensa Briggs
8. Gaudete - Pembroke Girls' Choir
9. My Heart, O God - Lucy Walker
10. On Christmas - Kethaki Prathivadi
11. O Adonai - Roderick Williams
12. My Lord has come - Will Todd
13. Huron Carol - Eleanor Daley
14. The Pembroke Carol - Pembroke Girls' Choir
15. Serenity - Ola Gjeilo
16. Lo! He Slumbers - Cecilia McDowall
17. Seeing the Star - Ben Ponniah
18. The Evening Star - Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
19. Lux Aurumque - Eric Whitacre
20. Silent Night - Pembroke Girls' Choir
21. The very best time of year - John Rutter arr Park

RECORDINGS

Celestial Dawn

Release date: 8th July 2022

This album is the second commercial release for Anna Lapwood as a conductor. It is a recording of a unique collection of contemporary choral pieces, some newly arranged pieces never before recorded, and some premieres of new works.

REVIEWS

"The choir's sound is fresh and supple, the blend sweet and nicely balanced... All phrased with care and musicality - directional without being mannered... There's a lot of care and affection in this recording, from the program notes to the choice of works and performances. Apart from being an attractive listen hopefully will also prove a valuable resource for other ensembles"

[Alexandra Coghlan, Gramophone](#)

"There is much to applaud on this debut recording by the Pembroke College Girls' Choir...a particular standout in Eric Whitacre's haunting 'The Seal Lullaby'"

[Cross Rhythms](#)

"the grace and purity of the young voices is the only clue a listener will have as to their age: the breadth, maturity, and cohesiveness of the overall sound in both unison and harmonic moments is admirable, and the subtlety, intonation, and balance in the solos from the older members in particular stands out as a marked display of musicianship well beyond their years"

[Expressive Audio](#)



Track Listing:

1. Cantique, Nadia Boulanger
2. Light of the World, John Dankworth
3. Magnificat, Wayne Marshall
4. Nunc Dimittis, Wayne Marshall
5. If With All Your Hearts, Felix Mendelssohn
6. O Perfect Love, Harry Burleigh
7. Ubi Caritas, Roxanna Panufnik
8. The Seal Lullaby, Eric Whitacre
9. O That I Once Past Changing Were, Lennox Berkeley
10. Pie Jesu, Lili Boulanger
11. Drop, Drop Slow Tears, Richard Shephard
12. O For the Wings of a Dove, Felix Mendelssohn arr. Anna Lapwood
13. Ex Ore Innocentium, John Ireland
14. You Know Me, Kristina Arakelyan
15. Ave Maria, Johann Sebastian Bach arr. Charles Gounod
16. Litany to the Holy Spirit, Ben Ponniah
17. I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say, James Devor
18. Magnificat (Ely Canticles), Ben Parry
19. Nunc Dimittis (Ely Canticles), Ben Parry

RECORDINGS

Images

Release date: 3rd September 2021

REVIEWS

"This debut solo album brilliantly played by the rising young organist Anna Lapwood should certainly engage organ aficionados, especially fans of the grand Harrison & Harrison instrument in Ely Cathedral...The real curiosity, however, is Lapwood's own arrangement of Britten's Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes. Much of this works surprisingly well."

[Michael Beek - BBC Music Magazine ****](#)

"as unexpected as it is absorbing...The organ of Ely Cathedral, extensively restored in 1999-2001, lends itself persuasively to the sensuous, often - but not always - pianissimo repertoire Lapwood favours."

[Fiona Maddocks - The Guardian](#)

"For me, the star of the show here is Anna's own transcription of the Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes by Benjamin Britten. Here the music shines through, enabling me to feel the East Anglian landscapes, and hear the turbulence and disquiet in these pieces."

[Claire Hobbs - Organists' Review](#)

"I am impressed with Lapwood's playing. She plays accurately, carefully, passionately and virtuoso. She has beautifully developed her original idea in an equally original program, in which a lot of attention is paid to young English composers. She has written about that very personally in the informative booklet, including photo shoot and disposition of the organ. Everything is right."

[Peter Snape - Orgel Niews *****](#)

"Anna is quickly becoming one of the most prominent exponents of the organ and her encouragement of young people in the exploration of music (in general, not just organ/church music) is to be applauded."

[Nick Kerrison - Cathedral Music Magazine](#)



Track Listing:

Le Tombeau de Couperin, Maurice Ravel arr. Erwin Wiersinga.

1. i. Prelude
2. iii. Forlane
3. iv. Rigaudon
4. An Occasional Trumpet Voluntary, Patrick Gowers
5. Andantino, doucement expressif (String Quartet in G minor, L. 85) Claude Debussy, trans. Alexandre Guilmant
6. Light in Darkness, Kerensa Briggs
7. Improvisation from Trois Pièces pour Orgue, Nadia Boulanger
8. Images, Owain Park

Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes, Benjamin Britten, trans. Anna Lapwood

9. Dawn
10. Sunday Morning
11. Moonlight
12. Storm
13. Vocalise- Étude, Olivier Messiaen, trans. Anna Lapwood
14. Taking your Leave, Cheryl Frances-Hoad

RECORDINGS

All Things are Quite Silent

Release Date: 25th September 2020

[Album Trailer](#)

It's so exciting to share "All Things Are Quite Silent", the debut album from The Choirs of Pembroke College, Cambridge, and for me as a conductor. We recorded it just a year after the Pembroke Girls' Choir was founded and it's a testament to their musicianship and hard work in that short period; they joined the hugely talented Chapel Choir from Pembroke College for this recording project. We chose the repertoire collectively to showcase some excellent but lesser-known and previously unrecorded repertoire alongside some more well-known, much-loved music. It was also really exciting, if a little nerve-wracking, to record one of my own compositions for the first time! A high proportion of the tracks are written by female composers and it's a collection of some of our favourite music. Our hope is that it will be heard and enjoyed by many, and performed by more and more choirs across the world.

Anna Lapwood, 2020

REVIEWS

'Anna Lapwood draws from her youthful forces well-judged readings that are characterised by evenness of tone and genuine beauty of sound.'

[Philip Reed - Choir & Organ *****](#)

'...there's real control evident in the blend (built upwards from some impressive low basses) and tuning... it showcases the choir brilliantly and smuggles a lot of contemporary music on to a recording with real mainstream appeal.'

[Alexandra Coghlan - Gramophone](#)

'[the] choir is as up-to-date as any first-rate modern ensemble... the singing is excellent throughout... intonation, ensemble technique, and balances, especially bass/soprano in the mixed choir, are a joy to experience.'

[David Vernier - Classics Today](#)

'the singing is fresh and clear, the aural equivalent of pure water... The choral sound is fresh, light and clear.'

[John Quinn - MusicWeb International](#)



Track Listing

1. All Things are Quite Silent, Trad. arr. Kerry Andrew
2. Jesus Christ the Apple Tree, Elizabeth Poston
3. O Nata Lux, Anna Lapwood
4. In the Stillness, Sally Beamish
5. Into Thy Hands, Jonathan Dove
6. Media Vita, Kerensa Briggs
7. And the Swallow, Caroline Shaw
8. The Water of Tyne, Elizabeth Poston
9. Iustorum Animae, Matthew Martin
10. Peace I Leave with You, Amy Beach
11. Grandmother Moon, Eleanor Daley
12. Ave Maria, Rebecca Clarke
13. Upon Your Heart, Eleanor Daley
14. Agnus Dei, Imogen Holst
15. Mother of God, John Tavener
16. Abendlied, Josef Rheinberger
17. Sing to the Moon, Laura Mvula

RADIO LINKS

[BBC World Service March 2023](#)

[BBC Radio 4: Add to Playlist Feb 2023](#)

[BBC Radio 3: Record Review January 2023](#)

[BBC Radio 3: This Classical Life January 2023](#)

[BBC Radio 4: Start the Week December 2023](#)

[Classic FM Live at the Royal Albert Hall October 2022](#)

[BBC Radio 3: In Tune June 2022](#)

[BBC Radio 4: Add to Playlist June 2022](#)

[BBC Radio 4: Front Row April 2022](#)





Appointed Associate Artist at the Royal Albert Hall, and Ambassador of the Cathedral Music Trust.



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