



Thomas Tallis

*The Complete Works - Volume 5
Music for the Divine Office - 2*

Chapelle Du Roi

*directed by Alistair Dixon
Andrew Benson Wilson - Organ*

What the critics said about earlier volumes:

"Serenely beautiful" - Ivan March, Penguin Guide

"a masterly performance" - D. James Ross

"their interpretation at times almost touches the visionary"
- Mary Berry, The Gramophone

"a consistently high level of quality both in interpretation and in
vocal skill ... it is a splendid achievement." - J. F. Weber, Fanfare

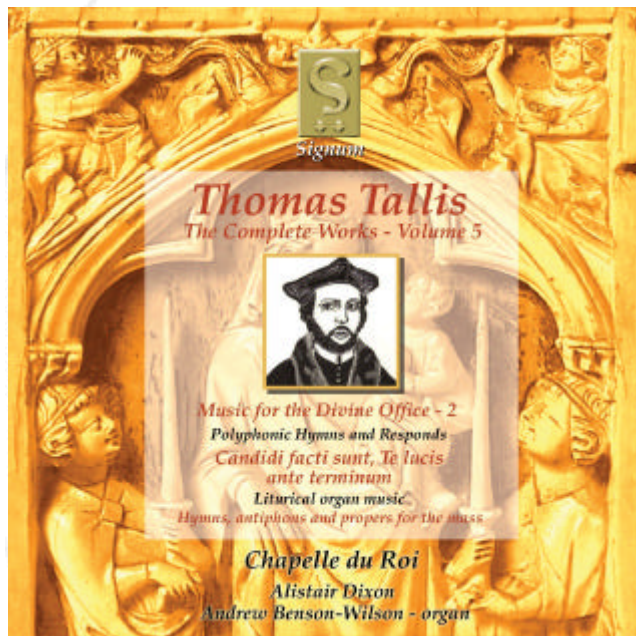
"Dixon has a canny knack of finding just the right tempo for nearly
every piece on these discs striking the delicate balance between a
feeling of relaxed space and forward momentum"
- Peter Syrus, Music Teacher

This disc is the fifth in a series of nine that covers Thomas Tallis's complete surviving output from his five decades of composition. In this disc we continue to explore the choral music of the Divine Office, progressing with the choral hymns and responsories not included in volume 4. This volume is completed with Tallis's liturgical organ music: five hymns and three antiphons for the Divine Office, an Alleluia for the Lady Mass and an extended setting of the offertory Felix Namque.

Tallis's written music for the liturgy is modest in style, inventive and very appealing. His surviving output of written keyboard music is very small in light of his reputation. It is possible that much of this written music has been lost, and even more likely that the majority of his keyboard performances were improvised, and therefore not strictly notated. This CD offers reconstructions based on what is known of liturgical practice at the time when this music was most probably written (the later years of Henry VIII and those of Queen Mary I).

Recording the organ works of Tallis involves a number of difficult decisions, not least the choice of organ, as there are no surviving English organs from the sixteenth century. The organ in the late medieval private chapel of Knole, a vast country house in Kent, is arguably the oldest playable organ in England. It's joints can sound rather rattly, and it has some trouble breathing at times (although the regular creak of the bellows being pumped by foot is a reassuring link with the pre-electric past). However, the sound of this organ in the Knole chapel acoustic might not be far off from what Tallis knew from inside the Chapel Royal.

Once again Chapelle du Roi presents an inspired and historically informed performance of the sacred renaissance repertoire for which they are celebrated



Choral Hymns and responds:

Audivi Vocem de Coelo	[3:29]
Candidi Facti Sunt	[4:32]
Honor Virtus et Potestas	[5:49]
Homo Quidam Fecit Coenam	[5:05]
Te Lucis Ante Terminum (Ferial)	[1:35]
Te Lucis Ante Terminum (Festal)	[2:07]

Organ Music (with plainchant):

Natus Est nobis hodie	[0:52]
Veni Redemptor genitum	[7:35]
Jam Lucis orto sidere	[4:04]
Ex more docti mistico	[7:13]
Ecce tempus idoneum	[4:12]
Magnificat & Clarifica me pater (I)	[4:33]
Clarifica me pater (II)	[1:03]
Clarifica me pater (III)	[1:10]
Gloria Tibi Trinitas	[1:50]
Alleluia: Per te Dei genitrix	[5:01]
Felix Namque (II)	[12:29]

Total running time: [77.53]

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