

signum
CLASSICS

THE DREAM OF HEROD



TENEBRAE

NIGEL SHORT

THE DREAM OF HEROD

1. Alleluya	Peter Wishart	[1.55]
2. O radix Jesse	Plainsong	[1.02]
3. A spotless rose <i>Soloist: Matthew Brook</i>	Herbert Howells	[3.38]
4. Rorate coeli	Plainsong	[6.01]
5. Of the Father's heart begotten	(trad., arr. Willcocks)	[3.33]
6. Ave Maria	Plainsong	[0.33]
7. I sing of a maiden	Patrick Hadley	[4.00]
8. Puer natus est nobis	Plainsong	[1.19]
9. A flower given to my daughter <i>Soloists: Chris Watson & John Bowley</i>	Bob Chilcott	[3.01]
10. Silent night, holy night	Franz Gruber, arr. Rose	[4.25]
11. Sussex carol	(trad., arr. Willcocks)	[1.44]
12. Away in a manger <i>Soloist: Natalie Clifton-Griffith</i>	(Kirkpatrick, arr. Short)	[4.17]
13. Adeste fideles	Plainsong	[0.47]
14. O come all ye faithful	(trad., arr. Willcocks)	[4.13]

The Dream of Herod

Nigel Short

15. Herod's despair	[3.02]
16. The visit of the Magi	[3.00]
17. The chorus of the voiceless infants	[2.15]
18. The chorus of the parents of Judea	[2.49]
19. Mary and Joseph appear to Herod	[2.49]
20. Jesus appears to Herod	[5.35]
Total Timings	[60.16]

TENEBRAE
DIRECTED BY NIGEL SHORT
JEREMY FILSELL - ORGAN

www.signumrecords.com www.tenebrae-choir.com

TEXTS

1 Alleluya

Alleluya, a new work is come on hand
through might and grace of Gode's son,
to save the lost of every land. Alleluya.

For now is free that erst was bound we may well
sing. Alleluya.

Now is fulfilled the prophecy of David and of
Jeremy, and also of Isaiah. Alleluya.

Sing we therefore both loud and high Alleluya.

Alleluya, this sweete song, out of a green branch
it sprung, God send us the life that lasteth long.
Alleluya.

Now joy and bliss be him among, that thus can
sing. Alleluya.

2 O Radix Jesse

O radix Jesse, qui stas in signum populorum,
super quem continebunt reges os suum,
quem gentes deprecabuntur,
veni ad liberandum nos, iam noli tardare.

Root of Jesse, you who stand as a sign for the
people, over whom kings hold their tongue,
whom the nations implore,
come to free us, do not now delay.

3 A spotless rose

A spotless rose is blowing,
sprung from a tender root,
of ancient seers' foreshowing,
of Jesse promised fruit;
its fairest bud unfolds to light

amid the cold, cold winter,
and in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,
whereof Isaiah said,
is from its sweet root springing
in Mary, purest Maid;
for through our God's great love and might,
the Blessed Babe she bare us
in a cold, cold winter's night.

4 Rorate coeli

Rorate coeli de super et nubes pluant justum,
ne irascaris Domine, ne ultra memineris
iniquitatis,
ecce civitas sancti facta est deserta,
Sion deserta facta est: Jerusalem desolata est,
domus sanctificationis tuae et gloriae tuae,
ubi laudaverunt te patres nostri.

Consolamini, consolamini, popule meus,
cito veniet salus tua: quare moerore consumeris,
quia innovavit te dolor? Salvabote, noli timere,
ego enim sum Dominus Deus tuus,
sanctis Israel redemptor.

Peccavimus, et facti sumus tamquam immundus
nos, et cecidimus quasi folium universi,
et iniquitates nostrae quasi ventus abstulerunt nos,

Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let
the clouds rain justice; be not angry, O Lord, and
remember no longer our iniquity;
behold, the city of thy sanctuary is become
a desert, Zion is made a desert, Jerusalem is
desolate, the house of thy holiness and thy glory,
where our fathers praised thee.

Be comforted, be comforted, my people; swiftly
shall thy salvation come; why art thou consumed
with grief, because pain hath renewed you?
I will save thee, fear not, for I am the Lord thy
God, who redeemeth the holy ones of Israel.

We have sinned, and are become as one unclean,
and have all fallen like a leaf,
and our iniquities have carried us off like the wind,

abscondisti faciem tuam a nobis,
et allisisti nos in manu iniquitatis nostrae.

Vide Domine afflictionem populi tui,
et mitte quem missurus es,
emitte Agnum dominatorem terrae,
de petra deserti ad montem filiae Sion, ut auferat
ipse jugum captivitatis nostrae.

5 Of the Father's heart begotten

Of the Father's heart begotten,
ere the world from chaos rose,
he is Alpha: from that fountain
all that is and hath been flows.
He is Omega, of all things
yet to come the mystic close,
evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created;
he commanded and 'twas done;
earth and sky and boundless ocean,
universe of three in one.
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,
all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore.

thou hast hid thy face from us
and crushed us in the hand of our iniquity.

Behold, O Lord, the affliction of thy people,
and send Him whom thou meanest to send,
send forth the Lamb that shall rule the earth,
from the rock of the desert to the mountain of
the daughter of Zion, that he may take away the
yoke of our captivity.

He assumed this mortal body,
frail and feeble doomed to die,
that the race from dust created
might not perish utterly,
which the dreadful Law had sentenced
in the depths of hell to lie,
evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heav'n his praises;
angels and archangels, sing!
Where so e'er ye be, ye faithful,
let your joyous anthems ring,
ev'ry tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore.

6 Ave Maria

Ave Maria
gratia plena,
Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus.

Hail Mary,
full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women.

7 I sing of a maiden

I sing of a maiden that is makeless;
king of all kings to her son she ches.
He came all so still where his mother was,
as dew in April that falleth on the grass.
He came all so still to his mother's bower,
as dew in April that falleth on the flower.
He came all so still where his mother lay,
as dew in April that falleth on the spray.
Mother and maiden was never none but she:
well may such a lady God's mother be.

8 Puer natus est nobis

Puer natus est nobis,
et filius datus est nobis.
Cuius imperium super humerum eius,
et vocabitur nomen eius,
magni consilii angelus.

A child is born for us,
a son is given to us.
The power shall rest on his shoulders,
and his name shall be
angel of great counsel.

9 A flower given to my daughter

Frail the white rose and frail are her hands that gave,
whose soul is sere and paler than time's wan wave.
Rose, frail and fair yet the frailest a wonder wild
in gentle eyes thou veilest, my blue veined child.

10 Silent night, holy night

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright,
round yon virgin mother and child,
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glory streams from heaven afar,
heavenly host sing Alleluya,
Christ the saviour is born.
Silent night, holy night,
son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

11 Sussex Carol

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,
since our redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place;
angels and men with joy may sing,
all for to see the new-born king.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
glory to God and peace to men,
now and for evermore. Amen.

12 Away in Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head,
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
The little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

13 Adeste Fideles

Adeste fideles, laeti triumphantes,
venite in Bethlehem.
Natum videte, regem angelorum,
venite adoremus Dominum.

14 O come all ye faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the king of angels:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the lord!

God of God, light of light,
Lo! He abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesu to thee be glory giv'n,
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of Angels,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

THE DREAM OF HEROD

The Dream of Herod traces an evolution from dark, brooding introspection to dawning effulgence. Torment and inner violence make way for the mystery of forgiveness and hope in a succession of six brief scenes. Herod, a ruthless, blood-stained king is condemned to restless reflection on the genocide he has inflicted on his own people. Uncertain whether he is lost in sleep or wakefulness, he witnesses a procession of figures that distil the essence of his branded conscience. Imprisoned by the horror of his deeds, he sees his pathway to release, illuminated by the very voices of those he most feared.

Nigel Short

15 Scene 1: Herod's despair

Herod

My world is one of glory, darkened.
All kneel, save I.
My gaze is ever downward,
And my path is eternally crimsoned.
A king may master, and know not mastery.
A ruler orders, and forfeits order.
A leader lives, but borrows life from souls not his.
Sleep, I know not now;
For this is wrest from me by endless apparitions.

I turn, I turn, eternally.
And who are these visitors?
First-born, like me, or voiceless infants,
Or parents, a whole people in lament;
Or those who saw the object of my quest,
And knew too well how fear reaps innocence
In sheaves too broad to embrace.
Dark or light, I know no rest from nocturnal vision.
And all these voices, so gentle, so gentle.

16 Scene 2: The visit of the Magi

Herod

Three men made straight the way for my perdition,
Turning vanity and terror to ruthlessness.

Melchior

Great Herod, glory to you.

Balthasar

Great Herod, may every subject know your worth.

Caspar

Great Herod, may your name resonate for ever.

Herod

How could I know that these men had come to
curse me?

Melchior

We come in search of light, and that light will be
a man.
A child unimagined, inconceivable;
His infancy a miracle, his adulthood supreme;
His death? Wise Herod can, perhaps divine.

Balthasar

We come in search of hope, and that hope will be
a man.
A teacher, healer, shepherd,
Raising those that others lower.
Knowing, giving, loving.
Know you Herod, such a one?

Caspar

We come in search of peace, and that peace shall
be a man.
Born in your land, but heir to kingdoms greater,
Monarch to the children we must all become
To know eternity.

Herod

Were these seers, even then,
Prescient of my people's woe to come,
Of a carnage, mine to start or stay?

17 Scene 3: The Chorus of the voiceless infants

Herod

We slay, to preserve ourselves, in fear.
We slay that purest part
To leave no contrast to our voided heart.
These infants hail me, voiceless, kind.
We slay that purest part
To leave no lustre in our darkened heart.
Blameless lives make no reproach.
To leave no fearing in our craven heart
We slay that purest part.

18 Scene 4: The chorus of the parents of Judea

Chorus of the parents of Judea

Herod! Herod!
Rest you shall not yet,
Herod! Herod!
Below the waxing moon of nightfall
Our first-born shed their blood
Upon your hands with open hearts!
Herod! Herod!
Rest you shall not yet,
Herod! Herod!
Below the waning moon of nightfall
Our second-born shed their tears
Upon your land with open eyes!
Herod! Herod!
Rest you shall not yet,
Herod! Herod!

Below the rising sun of daybreak
All generations will shed their hatred
And enfold you in their open arms!
Herod! Herod!

19 Scene 5: Mary and Joseph appear to Herod

Mary

I kneel before you, Herod.
My gaze is ever upward,
My world is one of humility, brightened
By an unchosen path of light.
I knelt before my son, and not alone.
Others knelt, and knew.

Joseph

A monarch you were, a ruler over death and life.
A king you were not.
Dominion you would not truly know,
Save in darkness.
I knelt before my son, and not alone,
Others knelt, and knew.

Herod

And I, who never knelt,
How could I know?
How can I now?

Mary & Joseph

Herod, dream

A thousand nights or one,
But dream in hope to find,
The child you never found.
Kneel before our son, and be no more alone.

20 Scene 6: Jesus appears to Herod

Herod

Eternal rest is mine to give,
But not to take.
My crown of searing shame
I would surrender in an instant
For a crown of thorns,
If thus I could sleep;
With blood, not tears, in streams upon my face.

Jesus

Herod!

Herod

I hear a voice of stillness,
And fear that only in a dream
Could such a voice address me thus.

Jesus

Herod! You beg to rest, yet till now
You have known none other than sleep.
Your wakening will be one of wonder.
I pass the last through your unawakened world;
I enter first in your temple of redemption.

Rise, shed your images of the night.
Close your eyes and find unhindered sight.

Chorus

Herod's body lies, his spirit free to fly.
Rise, shed your images of the night.
Rise, live in rekindled light!
Rise, live in rekindled light!

BIOGRAPHIES

TENEBRAE

Tenebrae is a professional chamber choir, founded and directed by Nigel Short. Performing by candlelight, the choir creates an atmosphere of spiritual and musical reflection, where medieval chant and renaissance works are interspersed with contemporary compositions to create an ethereal mood of contemplation. The beautiful acoustics and lighting effects of a Tenebrae concert are further enhanced by the choir's dramatic use of movement around the performing space. As singers move around their surroundings to explore all possible sound perspectives, each member of the audience is able to experience the power and intimacy of the human voice.

PASSION & PRECISION

Passion and Precision is the motto of Tenebrae and its members are drawn from musical backgrounds reflecting these qualities, such as the Monteverdi Choir, the choirs of Westminster Abbey and Cathedral and King's College, Cambridge. Many of Tenebrae's singers have worked with the leading specialist vocal groups including I Fagiolini, The Tallis Scholars, The Swingle Singers and The King's Singers. Contributing to the dramatic qualities of Tenebrae's performing style are singers from Britain's two major opera houses, Covent Garden and English National Opera. This combination weaves together a huge variety of choral

experience, giving the choir an exceptional range of vocal power and colour.

NIGEL SHORT

Nigel began his musical life as a chorister at Solihull Parish Church going on to study singing and piano at the Royal College of Music. He began his career as a soloist in opera and oratorio and as a member of specialist vocal ensembles such as The Tallis Scholars whilst maintaining a regular involvement in church music, firstly as a member of Westminster Abbey Choir then Westminster Cathedral. He joined the King's Singers when he was 27 and stayed with them for seven years.



After a short break of about one ski season in the Swiss Alps he set about founding his own group, Tenebrae, aiming to bring together what he loved best as a singer - namely the more passionate sounds of large Cathedral choirs and the precision of ensembles like The King's Singers - to create a new kind of choral group. Whilst embracing an eclectic repertoire he wanted to have some 'signature' works that would make Tenebrae different, adding a theatrical element that would involve singers moving around as if on stage. To that end he wrote *The Dream of Herod*, with a central role for baritone Colin Campbell, and commissioned Joby Talbot to write *Path of Miracles*, premiered in July 2005. Since its debut performance in 2001 Tenebrae has given concerts in Spain, Italy, Germany, France, Switzerland, UK, USA and Bermuda.

Nigel and the group have performed and recorded live with The Chamber Orchestra of Europe for Warner Classics and have given several performances with The English Concert. They record regularly with Signum Classics.

Nigel divides his time between directing Tenebrae and giving an ever increasing number of masterclasses and workshops for both professional and amateur vocal groups and choirs throughout Europe.

Sopranos

Natalie Clifton-Griffith, Elizabeth Cragg, Anna Crookes, Joanna Forbes, Carys Lane

Counter-tenors

Stephen Carter, Jeremy Filsell, Peter Gritton, Alexander L'Estrange

Tenors

Paul Badley, John Bowley, Andrew Busher, Gerry O'Bierne, Chris Watson

Basses

Matthew Brook, Colin Campbell, Simon Grant, Adrian Peacock, David Porter-Thomas, Giles Underwood

Organ Jeremy Filsell

Timpani Steve Long

Herod Colin Campbell

Jesus Peter Gritton

Mary Anna Crookes

Joseph Paul Badley

Melchior Stephen Carter

Balthasar Andrew Busher

Caspar David Porter-Thomas



© Eric Richmond

Recorded at the Church of St Bartholomew the Great, 27 - 28 August 2001

Producer - Adrian Peacock
Engineer - Limo Hearn
Editor - Ken Blair

Design and Artwork - Woven Design
www.wovendesign.co.uk

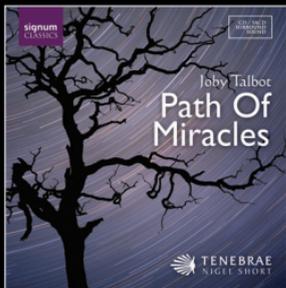
www.signumrecords.com

© 2003 The copyright in this recording is owned by Signum Records Ltd.
© 2003 The copyright in this CD booklet, notes and design is owned by Signum Records Ltd.

Any unauthorised broadcasting, public performance, copying or re-recording of Signum Compact Discs constitutes an infringement of copyright and will render the infringer liable to an action by law. Licences for public performances or broadcasting may be obtained from Phonographic Performance Ltd. All rights reserved. No part of this booklet may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission from Signum Records Ltd.

SignumClassics, Signum Records Ltd., Suite 14, 21 Wadsworth Road, Perivale, Middx UB6 7JD, UK. +44 (0) 20 8997 4000 E-mail: info@signumrecords.com

ALSO AVAILABLE ON SIGNUMCLASSICS



The Path of Miracles

Joby Talbot

Tenebrae / Nigel Short

SIGCD078

"It's an interesting musical journey for composer, performers and listeners alike."

Classic FM



Allegri Miserere

Tenebrae / Nigel Short

SIGCD085

"I really think we're in a choral golden age at the moment ... It's beautifully sung, a wonderful disc." **BBC Music Magazine**



Mother and Child

Sacred music by contemporary composers

Tenebrae / Nigel Short

SIGCD501

"... a highly dramatic work ... making the fullest use of the choral resources available and with a very challenging organ part superbly played by Jeremy Filsell."

International Record Review