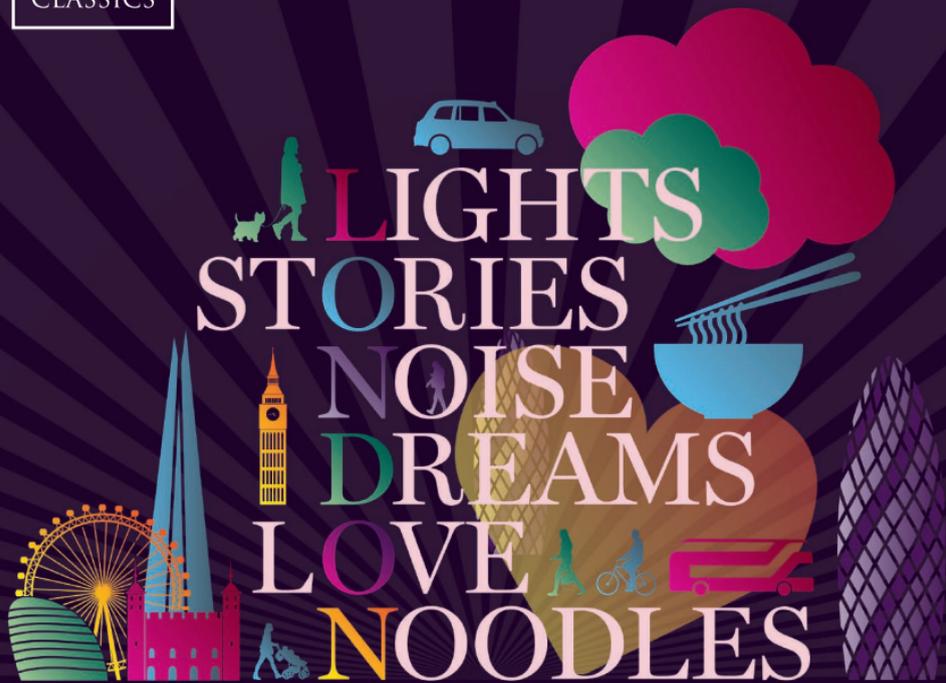


signum
CLASSICS



Will Todd
Words by Michael Rosen

The Bach Choir
David Hill *conductor*

LIGHTS, STORIES, NOISE, DREAMS, LOVE AND NOODLES

WILL TODD | MICHAEL ROSEN

Songs of Magical Creatures *

Words by William Shakespeare

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | Fairy Song | [3.16] |
| 2 | Full Fathom Five | [6.11] |
| 3 | Shadows | [4.09] |
| 4 | Fairy Song (Reprise) | [1.20] |

For choir, piano, percussion, strings and harp

Lights, Stories, Noise, Dreams, Love and Noodles *

Words by Michael Rosen

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|--------|
| 5 | Prologue: City Rhythm | [2.50] |
| 6 | Lights | [2.36] |
| 7 | Noise | [2.57] |
| 8 | Stories | [2.48] |
| 9 | Dreams | [2.47] |
| 10 | Love | [3.49] |
| 11 | Noodles | [3.46] |
| 12 | Epilogue: City Rhythm (Reprise) | [2.25] |

For choir, youth choir and jazz ensemble

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|--------|
| 13 | I will Light a Candle | [3.59] |
|----|-----------------------|--------|

Words by Will Todd

For choir

Kites, Cards and Constellations *

Words by Will Todd

- | | | |
|----|----------------|--------|
| 14 | Kites | [3.13] |
| 15 | Cards | [2.21] |
| 16 | Memories | [2.13] |
| 17 | Constellations | [5.46] |

For choir and piano

Total timings: [56.27]

* World Premiere Recording

Songs of Magical Creatures

I grew up in a household full of Shakespeare due to the fact that my father Derek Todd taught English Literature at Durham University and had a passion for all things Shakespearean! I have particularly fond memories of attending student productions on the river banks in Durham and experiencing the magic of the stories and language as we sat transfixed in the May dusk (huddled in blankets). Those experiences definitely helped to amplify the magical and supernatural/mythical themes that Shakespeare often weaves into the narratives of his plays.

This short suite sets three sections of 'magical poetry', one from *The Tempest* and two from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The music for 'Fairy Song' takes its inspiration from the fizzing energy of the spirit (First Fairie) as she describes her magical existence. The second setting is the famous 'Full Fathom Five', used brilliantly by many composers over the years but still a delight to set. In the final movement we hear Puck's reflections at the end of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, before a return of the fizzing energy of the first movement brings the suite to a close.

Will Todd

Lights, Stories, Noise, Dreams, Love and Noodles

Words by Michael Rosen

Lights, Stories, Noise, Dreams, Love and Noodles is a collaboration between composer Will Todd and one of the UK's most celebrated children's authors Michael Rosen. Commissioned by The Bach Choir in 2015, Michael Rosen describes this 25 minute cantata as "echoes, memories, pictures and sounds of a city: and the words and music that spring from it all."

Will Todd writes: "Working with Michael was a joyous and inspirational experience. I began by using some of Michael's existing poems, sometimes blending fragments of several works (such as in 'Noise'). Then he and I worked together to create other parts, notably 'Love', 'Dreams' and 'Stories'. The 'Prologue' and 'Epilogue' texts are taken from another pre-existing Michael Rosen poem. Thank you Michael for being so fun."

The work was first performed at Westminster Central Methodist Hall on 17 June 2016, conducted by David Hill and performed with The Young Singers – a children's choir formed in partnership with The Bach Choir and the Tri-Borough Music Hub for children of years 4 – 6.

THE BACH CHOIR
WILL TODD ENSEMBLE
DAVID HILL CONDUCTOR

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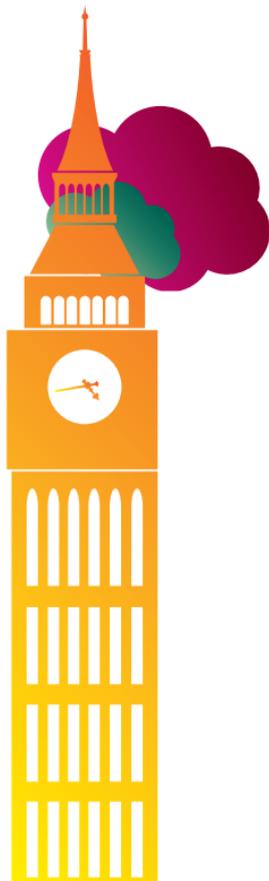
I will light a candle

I Will Light A Candle was inspired by hearing the University of Delaware Choir at Chorale Internationale 2017. This short unaccompanied choral song has words written by Will Todd.

Kites, Cards and Constellations

The choral suite *Kites, Cards and Constellations* was commissioned by the Blanco family for the tenth Anniversary of Mark Blanco's death. The work was first performed by St Martin's Voices with Will Todd at Westminster Cathedral Hall as part of a celebration of Mark's life and a reflection of the last ten years in 2016.

Will Todd writes: "I worked with Mark Blanco's mother Sheila (a tireless advocate for justice in the tragic case of her son's death) to try and find a way to express something about the life of Mark (who I never knew). Sheila gave me lots of great anecdotes and stories and also supplied some reminiscences of Mark's friends and family. Gradually as I mixed these ideas up the final text emerged as a tribute to Mark. In the premiere performance I added a live improvisation. I have now transcribed this and added it as the third section: *Memories*."



Songs of Magical Creatures

Words by William Shakespeare

1 & 4 Fairy Song
(from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*)

Over hill, over dale,
Thorough bush, thorough brier,
Over park, over pale,
Thorough flood, thorough fire,
I do wander every where,
Swifter than the moon's sphere;
And I serve the fairy queen,
To dew her orbs upon the green:
The cowslips tall her pensioners be;
In their gold coats spots you see;
Those be rubies, fairy favours,
In those freckles live their savours:
I must go seek some dew-drops here
And hang a pearl in every cowslip's ear.
Farewell, thou lob of spirits: I'll be gone;
Our queen and all her elves come here anon.

2 Full Fathom Five
(from *The Tempest*)

Full fathom five thy father lies;
Of his bones are coral made;
Those are pearls that were his eyes:

Nothing of him that doth fade,
But doth suffer a sea-change
Into something rich and strange.
Sea-nymphs hourly ring his knell:
Ding-dong.
Hark! now I hear them,—ding-dong, bell.

3 Shadows
(from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*)

If we shadows have offended,
Think but this, and all is mended—
That you have but slumbered here
While these visions did appear.
And this weak and idle theme,
No more yielding but a dream,
Gentles, do not reprehend.
If you pardon, we will mend.
And, as I am an honest Puck,
If we have unearnèd luck
Now to 'scape the serpent's tongue,
We will make amends ere long.
Else the Puck a liar call.
So good night unto you all.
Give me your hands if we be friends,
And Robin shall restore amends.

Lights, Stories, Noise, Dreams, Love and Noodles

Words by Michael Rosen

5 & 12 City Rhythm

Hand on the bridge
Feel the rhythm of the train.
Hand on the window
Feel the rhythm of the rain.
Hand on your throat
Feel the rhythm of your talk.
Hand on your leg
Feel the rhythm of your walk.
Hand in the river
Feel the rhythm of the tide.
Hand your heart
Feel the rhythm inside
Inside, inside, inside, inside.
Hand on the rhythm
Feel the rhythm of the rhyme.
Hand on your life
Feel the rhythm of time
Of the city, of the city, of the city, of the city,
Of the city, of the city, of the city.

6 Light

Outside, in the dark
Traffic lights wink
Car lights blink
Outside in the dark
Outside....

Inside, in the dark
Bedside lights glow
And cats' eyes show
Inside, in the dark

Outside, it's day
Streaks of light
Push back the night
Outside it's day
Day break

Inside we're awake
Start of day
On our way
Inside we're awake

In the day, in the light.

7 Noise

Chukka chukka chukka...
Pshht!
RhurRRRRowww
Jibber, jabber, gabble, babble,

Pop, pop,
Pop, pop, got to pop
Can't stop,
Pop, pop, got to pop
Pop where?
Pop, pop, to the shop
Can't stop,
Pop pop!

In the street
And beneath my feet
I feel the purring and the murmuring
Of tubes and pipe.
All the people in the houses shops and fact'ries
Switching on
And phoning up
And washing away
And turning off

And the clocks
And the locks
And the drills

And the mills
And the trimmers
And the strimmers
And the rotors
And the motors
Keep them whirring
Keep them purring
Keep them smooth
On the move
In the grooooo00000ve
O YEAHHHHH!

8 Stories

Stories stroke us until we cry
Stories take us to where we fly
What might be
What could be
Story, story, story, possibility.

My mother told me
How she got lost in the street
My father told me how they came to meet.
Stories of life
Of what they see
What might be
And what could be.

My grandfather told of a place far from here

Grandmother told of living with fear
Stories of life
Of what they see
What might be
And what could be.

9 Dreams

*When I shut my eyes
And go to sleep
I think of all sorts of things.
I hear many songs
And bits of songs
The songs that my mother sings.*

She sings of a time that's been
She sings of a time to come
I am what I am in my life
I am what I dream in my dreams.

I dream of a time that's been
I dream of a time to come
I am what I am in my life
I am what I dream in my dreams.

I am what I am in my life
I am what I dream in my dreams.

10 Love

There are times when love is hiding
There are times when love's all gone
There are times when love's not there

There are times when love's forgotten
There are times when love's afraid
And there's no love to share

You can find love in music
you can find love in a book
You can find love in the city
You can find love where you look

Love is what we need
Love is what we need to give
Love is what we long for
Love is what we need
Love is what we need to live.

11 Noodles

I love FoooOoOD
That smells good
That smells really good.

Oodles of noodles...

I'm gonna eat a cheese roll
Then some flakes in a bowl
A plate of fried rice
And two chocolate mice
A slice of toast, a Sunday roast
Vanilla ice cream, a very bad dream

A gingerbread man, a frying pan
A piece of cake, a headache AND..
Oodles of noodles...

I'm gonna eat some fried fish
Followed by a birthday wish
A giant prune (a game of chess)
A bit of the moon (the sound of yes, a plastic tray)
A real live mouse, the side of a house
A television show, the sound of no

A gingerbread man, a frying pan
A piece of cake, a headache AND..
Oodles of noodles...

One pea
Then I'll eat me
Then I'll eat me
Then I'll eat me with...

Oodles of noodles...

13 I will Light a Candle

Words by Will Todd

When the darkness is round me,
When the night is so long,
How can I hold on to you?
When my dreams are fading away,
Be at my side.
I will light a candle,
To hold on to you.

Kites, Cards and Constellations

Words by Will Todd

14 Kites

Kites high, high in the sky blue sky
Kites dancing with me
Driven by the wind.
Pulling me,
Leading me,
Changing me,
Teaching me,
(High, high, high)
I learn to read the wind
And where the wind goes,
Eternity is waiting.
Driven by the wind.
Pulling me,

Leading me,
Changing me,
Teaching me.

15 Cards

Dung do do do
Dum ba dung
Ka do do do
Ga do ga
Da dum dum dum
Dun ga ding

Shuffle the deck,
Pick a card
I'll show you a trick
Show you a great trick
Take you on a magical journey
Illusions: Holding us for a brief moment,
The wonder of it, the surprise.

Shuffle the deck,
Pick a card
I'll show you a trick
Show you a great trick
Cards full of patterns, chaos,
Full deck, mixed up deck
Everything makes sense in a magic trick.

17 Constellations

The stars are bright and so are you
On a clear night all is clear,
All is understood
When I look up into the dark,
Brilliant, unfathomable Universe
I see magical patterns,
Logical impossibilities.
Questions no one will ever answer.
I am so small but love makes me magnificent
Reaching out and burning into infinity
Like a star,
Like a brilliant star

PERFORMERS

All works

The Bach Choir
David Hill *conductor*

1 - 4 Songs of Magical Creatures

Violin 1

Dominic Moore (Leader)
Ruth Funnell
Martin Gwilym-Jones
Suzanne Evans

Violin 2

Amelia Conway-Jones
Sophie Cameron
Rachel Allen
Rachel Steadman

Viola

Nigel Goodwin
Lynne Baker
Stephen Giles
Louise Parker

Cello

Bozidar Vukotic
Philip Taylor
Anna Beryl
Leonie Adams

Double bass

Catherine Ricketts
Kenneth Knussen

Harp

Jean Kelly

Percussion

Matthew Green
Chris Kimber
Dan Gresson

Piano

Philip Scriven

5 - 12 **Lights, Stories,
Noise, Dreams, Love
and Noodles**

**Finchley Children's
Music Group**

Will Todd Ensemble

Will Todd *piano*
Gareth Huw Davies *bass*
Jack Pinter *saxophone*
Jim Fleeman *drumkit*
Matthew Green *percussion*

14 - 16 **Kites, Cards
and Constellations**

Philip Scriven *piano*

THE BACH CHOIR

Founded in 1876, The Bach Choir is recognised as one of the world's leading choruses, building upon a tradition that combines musical excellence with creativity and innovation.

From the first performance in Britain of Bach's *Mass in B minor* to the soundtrack for Ridley Scott's epic *Prometheus*, our musical heritage is as rich as it is diverse. Directed by David Hill MBE, one of the country's most eminent conductors and choir trainers, we regularly

perform and record across London and the UK in prestigious venues, from the Royal Albert Hall to Abbey Road Studios.

Described by the London Evening Standard as 'probably the finest independent choir in the world', we value the freedom that our independence brings, allowing us to work with the very best orchestras and soloists, and to choose the music we perform. To date we have sung over 400 works in more than 120 venues, and continue to share our work with audiences around the world.



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With a strong commitment to new music, we have commissioned works from some of the world's leading composers including Sir John Tavener, Bob Chilcott, Jonathan Dove, Carl Rütti, and Will Todd. The main work on this disc – *Lights, Stories, Noise, Dreams, Love and Noodles* – was commissioned by The Bach Choir and premiered in 2016 alongside children from our outreach programme, Vocalise! Since then we have given the world premiere performances of James MacMillan's *Blow the trumpet in the new moon*, and Roxanna Panufnik's *Four Choral Seasons*, two movements of which were commissioned by The Bach Choir.

The Bach Choir has always been characterised by the commitment of its members. With over 250 talented singers coming from all walks of life, an international touring schedule, and a pioneering outreach programme that takes our passion for music into inner-city schools and dementia care homes, we take pride in performing, recording and sharing music for all to enjoy.

Keep in touch with The Bach Choir by visiting our website and registering for our e-news.
thebachchoir.org.uk/concerts



Majella Anning
Andrew Baines
Julia Blinko
Julian Briant
David Brook
Naomi Charatan
Rosie Chase
Alex Churchill
Rachel Clark
Jenny Clarke
Sam Clarke
Mary Clayton-Kastenholz
Jim Clifford
Rachel Collier
Ian Collins
Jess Cooling
Gaynor Coules
Richard Crook
Edward Cross
Ben Davies
Alix de Mauny
Fern Dickson
Tim Ellison
Kate Faber
Sebastian Fenton
Anne Francis
Jamie Gairdner
Marion Gaskin
Kevin Grafton
Rachel Green
Julie Greenacre
'Desola Haastrup

Angela Hall
Stephen Hargreaves
Kathy Heald
Martyn Heald
Caroline Hoffman
Jo Houston
Paul Houston
Diane Hume
Lucy Johnson
Pam Johnson
Peter Johnstone
Sarah Keen
Marianne Laker
Kristiina Leong
Tim Lewers
Phoebe Lill
Heather Lloyd
Andrew Lockley
Derek Matthews
Jerry Meldrum
Andrew Millinger
Amy Mitchell
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Olivia Symington
Christine Tate
Tom Tate
Dora Thornton
Robert Tibbott
Dominic Tighe
Catrin Treharne
Tessa Trench
Benedikt Unger
Richard Vincent
Penny Whittingham
Jan Whittle
Naomi Wordsworth
Rebecca Wright

DAVID HILL

Renowned for his fine musicianship, David Hill is widely respected as both a choral and an orchestral conductor.

He became The Bach Choir's ninth Musical Director in 1998; he is also Associate Guest Conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Music Director of Leeds Philharmonic Society and Principal Conductor of Yale Schola Cantorum. Until 2017 he was also Chief Conductor of the BBC Singers.

Born in Carlisle in 1957, David Hill was educated at Chetham's School of Music as a violinist and pianist, where he led the school orchestra. He was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists at the age of 17, and won an organ scholarship to St John's College, Cambridge where he served under the direction of Dr George Guest. Since Cambridge, David has held the posts of Sub-Organist at Durham Cathedral, Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral, Music Director of the Waynflete Singers, Master of Music at Winchester Cathedral, and Director of Music at St John's College, Cambridge.



© John Wood

David Hill's broad-ranging discography of over 100 recordings, spanning repertoire from the Renaissance to the present day includes many award-winners. With The Bach Choir David Hill has contributed to the film sound tracks of *Kingdom of Heaven*, *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *Shrek the Third*.

David Hill has appeared as guest conductor with many of the leading choirs and orchestras in the UK and abroad. His commitment to new music has led to him premiering works from leading composers including Judith Bingham,

Judith Weir, Carl Rütli, Francis Pott, Patrick Gowers, Jonathan Harvey, James MacMillan, Naji Hakim, Sir John Tavener, Philip Wilby, Jonathan Dove and, of course, Will Todd.

David was awarded the MBE for services to music in the 2019 New Year's Honours List.

MICHAEL ROSEN

Michael Rosen was born in 1946 in North London. One of the best-known figures in the children's book world, he is renowned for his work as a poet, performer, broadcaster and



scriptwriter. As an author and by selecting other writers' works for anthologies he has been involved with over 140 books. He lectures and teaches in universities on children's literature, reading and writing. Michael is a familiar voice to BBC listeners and is currently presenting *Word of Mouth*, the magazine programme that looks at the English language and the way we use it. He visits schools with his one-man show to enthuse children with his passion for books and poetry. He was one of the first poets to make visits to schools throughout the UK and has also visited schools throughout the world.

WILL TODD

English composer and performer Will Todd is well known for his beautiful and exciting music, encompassing choral works large and small, opera, musical theatre and orchestral pieces, as well as jazz compositions and chamber works. He grew up in the North East of England where his grandfather was a coal miner, and attended Bristol University where he studied composition. Well known and acclaimed works include *Mass in Blue* (2003), *Passion Music* (2018), *Jazz mlssa Brevis* (2015), *The Call of Wisdom* (2012), *My Lord Has Come* (2011), *Choral Symphony No 4: Ode to a Nightingale* (2011) and the operas *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (2013) and *Migrations* (2019). He has collaborated with award winning choirs The Sixteen and Tenebrae, as well as with the BBC Singers and Concert Orchestra, the Hallé Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, Opera Holland Park, Welsh National Opera, Opera North, The Bach Choir, St Martin's Voices and the Genesis Foundation. Will's music is high in demand by performers amateur and professional, and he enjoys a busy international schedule of commissions, performances and conducting appearances.



FINCHLEY CHILDREN'S MUSIC GROUP

President Martyn Brabbins

Musical Director Grace Rossiter

Rehearsal Accompanist John Evanson

Finchley Children's Music Group is a highly versatile group of mixed-voice choirs based in north London, committed to the promotion of singing and choral music for young people aged between 4 and 18. Under the direction of Grace Rossiter since 2001, the choirs are well known for their natural, vibrant vocal quality.

The group was established in 1958 following the London premiere of Benjamin Britten's *Noye's Fludde* at Southwark Cathedral, and Britten became FCMG's President in 1963. Since its early years, FCMG has championed contemporary music for children's voices, commissioning works by composers including Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Elizabeth Maconchy, Malcolm Williamson, Brian Chapple, Malcolm Singer, Judith Bingham, James Weeks, John Pickard, Alexander & Joanna L'Estrange and Alastair Putt.

FCMG regularly performs in London's major concert halls and abroad, alongside leading

professional choirs and orchestras including the BBC Symphony Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Aurora Orchestra, City of London Sinfonia, the BBC Singers and English National Opera, under conductors including Richard Hickox, Kurt Masur, Sir Colin Davis, Marin Alsop and their President, Martyn Brabbins. Whilst in demand to provide children's choruses for major choral works such as Bach *St Matthew Passion*, Berlioz *The Damnation of Faust* and Mahler *Symphony No 8*, FCMG is equally at home performing staged and semi-staged works.

Recent highlights include Carl Davis's *Last Train to Tomorrow* at the Roundhouse, the UK premiere of Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Hibiki* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Kerry Andrew's *No Place Like* (world premiere) for the BBC 10 Pieces Prom, the *Up Next Gala* at the National Theatre, Bernstein's *MASS* at the Southbank under Marin Alsop, the 60th anniversary production of Britten's *Noye's Fludde* at Southwark Cathedral, the BBC revival of Mark-Anthony Turnage's *The Silver Tassie* and ENO's staged production of Britten's *War Requiem* at the Coliseum under the baton of Martyn Brabbins.
fcmg.org.uk



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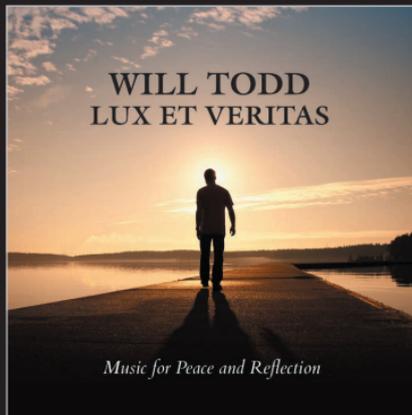
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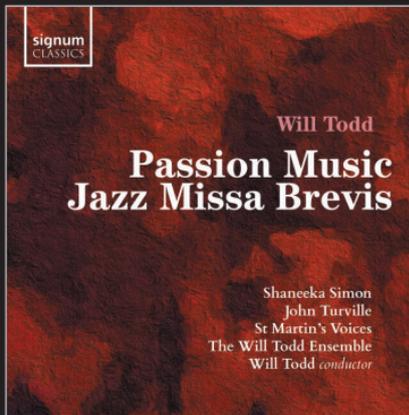
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