

Transcribed from the Sunday Times
Sunday 25 July 2004

Proms 2004

BBC NOW/Hickox
Royal Albert Hall Monday 19 July 2004

Hugh Canning

... For the second of Richard Hickox's BBC NOW programmes, the programming was reversed: choral Holst (The Hymn of Jesus) and orchestral Elgar (Enigma Variations) as the substantial bread around a modest filling: Delius's insipid Sea Drift, handsomely sung by another American, the baritone Thomas Hampson, but in a weird *mitteleuropädisch* English (his wife and domicile are Austrian). Elgar and Holst were solidly served by Hickox, who obviously loves this music, and it was sung sensationally by the Bach Choir, the BBC National Chorus of Wales and the boys of St Paul's Cathedral.