

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS: SANCTA CIVITAS; DONA NOBIS PACEM

Christina Pier (s), Andrew Staples (t), Matthew Brook (bar), Bach Choir, Winchester Cathedral Choristers, Winchester College Quiristers, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra / David Hill (dir)

Naxos 8.572424 [64:39]

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The high-octane emotion Vaughan Williams injected into both these works is captured here with alacrity. The composer's modal language and deft orchestration weave mystical energies throughout the textures. Keen orchestral colours and pure diction from the chorus and choristers combine with Hill's vivid reading of both scores to make this pairing a superb new addition to collectors' shelves.

MATTHEW POWER

Choir & Organ, May/June 2010