

CHOIR & ORGAN January/February 2011

RED PRIEST – MUSIC BY PHILIP WILBY (RED PRIEST; CONCERTPIECE; WONDROUS CROSS; A BRONTË MASS*)

Bach Choir, Black Dyke Band / Nicholas J Childs, David Hill* (dirs)

Doyen DOY CD250 [60:15]

★★★★★

The fine international reputation of the Black Dyke Band remains undiminished over the years. This CD is no exception, showing virtuosic playing and supreme musicianship. The backdrop to the programme is Venice and the influence of Vivaldi – hence the title work *Red Priest*, which is played by Black Dyke with scintillating abandon. Philip Wilby's *A Brontë Mass*, here in its alternative version, is scored for singers, brass band, organ and harp. Wilby takes his text from the poetry of the three Brontë sisters and their brother Branwell, interspersed with sections of the Latin mass. His writing recalls the vigour of Walton in its dramatic intensity combined with sensitivity. A remarkable sound balance has been achieved between the excellent Bach Choir, soloist and Band. One word describes this disc: stunning!

SHIRLEY RATCLIFFE