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THE CHOIR OF WESTMINSTER ABBEY
James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers

Press Notices

NEW YORK CITY "... they sang an exquisite concert ... The most ravishing performance of the evening was of the closing work, Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* ..."

The New York Times

WASHINGTON, DC "The 12 men and 18 boys of Westminster, under the sensitive baton of James O'Donnell, possess a beautiful sound, with a remarkably even blend and unanimity in phrasing ... substantial, richly hued body of tone. All the works received readings of nuance and stirring conviction."

The Washington Post

LONDON "... the Choir of Westminster Abbey currently in superbly virile and integrated form under O'Donnell ..."

The Independent

"Excellence abounded too in the Tudor anthems of Byrd, Gibbons and friends ... performed by the Westminster Abbey choir ... James O'Donnell's charges were vibrant and assertive."

The Times

"Performances by the Choir or Westminster Abbey under James O'Donnell ... were exemplary."

The Evening Standard

"The ensuing chronological panoply of English church music certainly demonstrated what a versatile, powerful and, indeed, virtuoso body the Abbey Choir has recently become under O'Donnell's coaching ... Their delivery of Byrd's *Sing Joyfully* ... sounded sumptuously sustained ... [a] deeply rewarding concert."

The Independent

"... Blazing in red cassocks and displaying great stamina, the men and boys of the Abbey choir roared through the vehement counterpoint."

The Times

"... Excellent diction and full-throated commitment from the Abbey boys and men made this a most powerful and moving conclusion to both concert and festival."

The Independent

SAN FRANCISCO “CHOIR, CATHEDRAL A PERFECT BLEND” — “The beautiful performance of the current Westminster Abbey Choir made it difficult to conceive how even its distinguished predecessors could have set higher standards.”

San Francisco Chronicle

“This is cathedral choral singing at its finest and most inspiring.”

Daily Telegraph

“... one of the great choral powerhouses of our time.”

Sydney Morning Herald

DENVER “... a very full house for the Friday night appearance of the Westminster Abbey Choir ... a challenging — and enticing program came alive.”

The Denver Post

MINNEAPOLIS “... unshakable discipline, beauty and fullness of tone, and the ability to capture the nuances of varied styles of music. The audience could not get enough ...”

Saint Paul Pioneer Press

KANSAS CITY “Through it all, the choir sang with robust, carrying tone, carefully tuning and voicing even the most complex chords ... its 16 boys and 12 men took us right to the throne of grace and marched us around it.”

Kansas City Star

OMAHA “A capacity crowd of 900 packed First United Methodist Church ... for a breathtaking tribute to the great English choral tradition ...”

Omaha World Herald

LINCOLN “The incredible training of the choir became apparent ... Exact blending, vowel unity, understandable diction and magnificent sustaining of singing line ...”

The Lincoln Star

WORCESTER “WESTMINSTER ABBEY CHOIR IS MEMORABLE” — “... a beautifully rendered and memorable concert at Mechanics Hall last night ... sound that entranced an audience of 1,500 people ... a vigorous standing ovation at the end.”

Worcester Telegram

WORCESTER “It is gratifying to report that Mechanics Hall was sold out – and for a choral ensemble. This must surely lead both to rejoicing among arts devotees, along with some raised eyebrows. One came expecting great things from the Westminster Abbey Choir and they delivered.”

The Evening Gazette

RECORDING REVIEWS:

Feast of Ascension (Hyperion 67680)

“No one does this grand scale of Anglican service music better than Westminster Abbey, and again the performances of this very demanding music are of the highest order, with radiant recorded sound that captures accurately what it’s like to sit in the stalls of the Abbey and hear this impeccable choir. Solo voices are all of the highest quality. Truly a triumphant recording.”

American Record Guide

The Feast of St. Edward, King and Confessor, at Westminster Abbey (Hyperion CDA67586)

“Anglican music can be heard at its best from Westminster Abbey ... stylishly performed ... exquisitely sung ...”

Choir and Organ Magazine

“The choristers and lay vicars of the reliable Westminster Abbey Choir sound excellent, clearly recorded in one of England’s most pleasing big-church acoustics. They handle the more difficult works – like the Harvey mass – with skill and assurance.”

American Record Guide