
David Hill

Selected Reviews

Herbert Howells: Stabat Mater (Naxos: 8573176)

"David Hill uses a score marked up by Howells with several radical tempi changes that he discovered by chance just a month before recording. The result is a fine reading." - **Stephen Pritchard, *The Guardian*******

Prom 37: Steve Reich – It's Gonna Rain, The Desert Music / BBC Singers & Endymion, August 2014

"Accuracy and stamina...the BBC Singers and Endymion were expertly marshalled by David Hill" - **Tim Ashley, *The Guardian********

"it is Hill who deserves the highest praise; his direction communicated the vitality and fragility at the heart of the piece – a thrilling sense of life on the edge." - **Laura Battle, *Financial Times********

"the lion's share of the credit for this performance should go to David Hill, whose knowledge of and clear love for the score kept the chorus on the front foot, rhythmically tight and vocally expressive." - **Ben Hogwood, *ClassicalSource***

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra / The Bach Choir, David Matthews Symphony No. 7 & Vespers CDLX7305

"A mightily impressive find, make no mistake – and another stellar performance, too, this time under the watchful supervision of David Hill." - **Gramophone**

BBC Prom 70: BBC Singers, Royal Albert Hall, September 2013

"With the BBC Singers and the Choristers of Temple Church Choir under David Hill, the result was magical" – **The Guardian**

"Britten's *A Boy Was Born* – got a stunning performance by a combination of the Temple Church Choir and the BBC Singers under David Hill's direction." - **The Independent**

"Under their director, David Hill, the BBC Singers cherished the softly undulating melodies, their syllables striding out in the *Dies Irae*, their words lightly held, flowing as clear and transparent as a wash of English watercolour." - **** **The Times**

"David Hill, choral conductor par excellence, directed with clarity and evident passion... The BBC Singers were joined for this by the boys in red, from the Temple Church Choir, all with angel voices. This was a treat: sophisticated, many-layered music, stamped with signs of the Britten to come, most dextrously performed, with due regard even paid to "authentic" medieval pronunciations." – **The Arts Desk**

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BBC Singers, The Cheltenham Festival, July 2012

"The BBC Singers, led by conductor David Hill were meticulous in their approach to the score and subtleties in the music."
- **Bachtrack, 9 July 2012**

"The BBC Singers gave no fewer than four premieres, each in their way extraordinary, in a towering performance directed by David Hill, at Cheltenham College Chapel." - **The Guardian, 6 July 2012**

"... the breathtakingly brilliant BBC Singers under David Hill's wise and remarkable direction came through it all with flying colours." - **Seen & Heard International, 5 July 2012**

Delius Mass of Life and Prelude & Idyll - Naxos 8572861-62, June 2012

"David Hill's impressive new recording with his Bach Choir (in the original German) boasts confident, ardent choral singing and orchestral playing, and a strong solo team..." - ***** **BBC Music Magazine, July 2012**

"There is no doubt from the vivid opening choruses of Parts 1 and 2 of the recording (and what openings!) that the message of the work is a life-affirming one. There is a dynamic momentum to the tempi which perfectly evokes Zarathustra's ruling passion, the Will of Man, and there is a richness to the orchestral sounds which adds to the sense of muscularity. The chorus negotiate Delius's often awkward vocal intervals with great skill and the intonation is virtually flawless. Hill brings energy and élan to the third section, 'In deine Auge' (for me perhaps the most exhilarating section of Part 1), where the parallel with the end of Act 2 of *Die Meistersinger* is almost palpable and where the most unusual example of a Delius fugue is given life, vigour and meaning. This is a must for any Delius *Liebhaber* and, with the added bonus of the later *Prelude and Idyll*, a marvellous starting point for anyone new to Delius's unique but compelling art." - **Gramophone, July 2012**

"... and this new [recording], from Naxos, has splendid modern sound, a thrilling choir and orchestra, and, in David Hill, a conductor no less devoted to Delius than his more celebrated predecessor."
- **Classical CD of the Week, The Sunday Times, 10 June 2012**

"This superb new [recording] from the Bach Choir and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in fact increases by 100 per cent the number of versions readily available. ... David Hill launches the opening *O du mein Wille!* with terrific gusto, the chorus and orchestra responding with thrilling impulse and intensity. Even in Part 2, where the tension slackens and the music becomes more meditative, Hill maintains the inner momentum and points up the essential poetry of the piece. In this Delius anniversary year it is good to welcome such a stirring and perceptive interpretation of his work." - ***** **The Telegraph, 8 June 2012**

Bach St Matthew Passion at The Royal Festival Hall, April 2011

"...conductor David Hill ensured that every dynamic and articulation served not only the particular musical moment, but also the broader narrative... with such generous soloists and a choir so expertly guided by Hill this truly is the real deal as far as Passions go." - **The Arts Desk, April 2011**

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Vaughan Williams *Dona Nobis Pacem & Sancta Civitas* on Naxos, May 2010

"David Hill directs both these works with a strong sense of their overall shape. Dramatic as they are, it is the sense of each as a symphonic journey that emerges most strongly, and convincingly." - **** **BBC Music Magazine, May 2010**

"The present performance is magnificent. In particular David Hill and the engineers between them balance RVW's often-complex many-layered textures expertly. For newcomers to these glorious works I can only urge you to invest confidently in David Hill's interpretations." - **Music Web Bargain of the Month, May 2010**

"These performances under David Hill are fine, responsive to the beauty and the terror...[they] impress as more impassioned than Hickox's and the recorded sound has a keener range and depth of perspective." - **Gramophone**

"The high-octane emotion Vaughan Williams injected is captured here with alacrity. 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." - **Choir & Organ**

"Conductor David Hill creates a beautiful nostalgic-numinous atmosphere, but he also has a keen sense of drama and whips up some thrilling climaxes" - **Classic FM**

Bach *St Matthew Passion* at the Royal Festival Hall, March 2010

"Could anyone but David Hill have achieved such a fusion of English choral tradition and state-of-the-art baroque performance practice? I don't think so. What an extraordinary contribution to our nation's musical life he has made."

- **The Telegraph, March 2010**

Carl Rütli *Requiem* on Naxos

"The Bach Choir has clearly taken this Requiem to its collective heart (by no means an automatic reaction to a commission!) and performs it with involving fervency under the experienced direction of the excellent David Hill"

- **** **BBC Music Magazine, Christmas 2009**

The People Shall Hear – Handel Choruses on BIS, October 2009

"Hill's Handel is characterised by concise rhythms and flowing tempi, blended with an agreeable softness, permitting no harsh tones." - (translation) **Klassik.com, November 2009**

"... the power of the divine gesture is exalted with dramatic fervour, yet with agility and flexibility, by the well-trained voices of the Bach Choir. Directed here by David Hill, one of the most accomplished British chorus masters, The English Concert displays the most limpid of sounds and rhythmic precision." - (translation) **Musica, October 2009**

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The Seasons in Dresden, January 2009

"It was remarkable how naturally Hill combined expert knowledge with historical performance practice, scenic effects, and also symphonic strength. There was no rigid stylistic arrangement; first and foremost was the effective interpretation of the text, the colourful and tasteful transposition of the onomatopoeia in Haydn's 'The Seasons'." -*Dresdner Neueste Nachrichten*, July 2009

Judith Bingham Remoter Worlds with The BBC Singers on Signum

"Under David Hill's direction, this superb choir gives precise, passionate and powerful readings."

- *The Sunday Times*, January, 2009