

FEBRUARY 2018 NEW RELEASE  
DISC OF THE MONTH

Excelling in recordings of Delius, Elgar, and Holst, Sir Andrew Davis here presents a spirited programme of works by Sir Arthur Bliss. It follows a recording of *Morning Heroes* that made the top recommendations of 2015; likewise recorded in surround-sound, it conveys the energy of both the exceptional soloists and the impeccable BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus.

Premiered along with Britten's *War Requiem* at the consecration of the new Coventry Cathedral in 1962, but hardly ever heard since, *The Beatitudes* is remarkable for its dramatic intensity, 'full of contrast and striking orchestral effects', as *The Times* noted after a recent Barbican performance given by the same forces. The reviewer added that 'soprano Emily Birsan was silvery clear, well supported by the tenor Ben Johnson. And the biggest round of applause should go to the BBC Symphony Chorus, full of passion.'

To complete the album are an arrangement of the national anthem having all the flair that made the tenure of Bliss as Master of the Queen's Music distinctive and successful, as well as the virtuosic *Introduction and Allegro*, dedicated to Stokowski and inspired by the powerful sound of American orchestras post-World War I.

## Content

### Sir Arthur Bliss (1891-1975):

The Beatitudes\*

Introduction and Allegro

God Save the Queen (arr. for full orchestra and chorus)†

## Artists

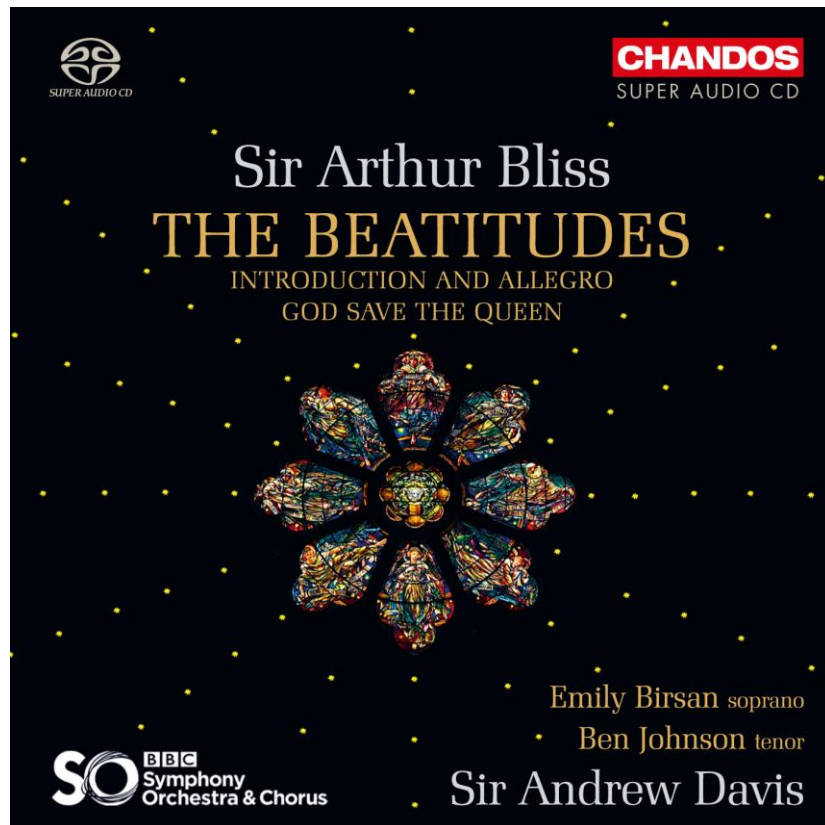
Emily Birsan | Soprano\*

Ben Johnson | Tenor\*

BBC Symphony Chorus\*†

BBC Symphony Orchestra

Sir Andrew Davis



RELEASE DATE: 2 February 2018

Cut-off date: 22 January 2018

Reference • CHSA 5191

ISRC code • GBLWD18005NN

Barcode • 095115519127

Title • Bliss: The Beatitudes, etc.

Label • Chandos

Genre • Classical

Format • SACD



Further information | SIR ANDREW DAVIS with BBC SO

- TOURS: Barbican (London, UK), Feb. 2018, Apr. 2018

- OTHERS: Super Audio CD in Surround Sound

Also Available: Sir Andrew Davis with the BBC Symphony Orchestra



CHSA 5159

EDITOR'S CHOICE  
*Gramophone*

'The recording is exemplary in every respect. A splendid release'  
*Choir & Organ*

CRITIC'S CHOICE  
*American Record Guide*



CHSA 5169

CHORAL & SONG CHOICE  
*BBC Music*

'Davis's performance is all that I could wish for'  
*Stereophile*

\*\*\*

*Musica*