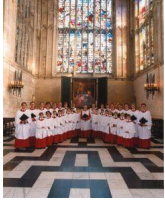


Benjamin Britten – Missa Brevis (1971)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 09 November 2011 10:06 - Last Updated Thursday, 08 October 2015 17:06

Benjamin Britten – Missa Brevis (1971)



1. *Kyrie* 2. *Gloria* 3. *Sanctus* 4. *Agnus Dei* King's College, Cambridge Choir Sir Phillip Wilcocks - conductor

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) is a twentieth-century British composer and pianist. Encouraged by his mother, he began playing and composing at an early age. He rose to great prominence as composer of operas and had the opportunity to collaborate with great names of the twentieth century, such as with EM Forster on *Billy Budd*.

The *Missa Brevis* in D, Op. 63 is a setting of the Mass composed by Benjamin Britten on Trinity Sunday, 1959. It was first performed at London's Roman Catholic Westminster Cathedral on 22 July of the same year. The piece is set for three-part treble chorus and organ.

The printed dedication reads "For George Malcolm and the boys of Westminster Cathedral Choir". The *Missa Brevis* was composed for Malcolm's retirement as organist and choirmaster at Westminster. It was Britten's first published setting of the Mass. Malcolm's live recording of the piece, from a service at the cathedral, lasts ten minutes.

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