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**Neil Cox**

*Four Ikons of the Archangels*

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**Four Ikons of the Archangels**  
for organ

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Daniel Cook gave the first performance of this work, *Four Ikons of the Archangels*, on 21st July 2013 on the Grand Organ of Westminster Cathedral. He subsequently played Uriel to conclude the 90th anniversary broadcast of BBC Choral Evensong from Westminster Abbey on 28th September 2016.

This work has been recorded by Simon Hogan on the organ of Southwell Minster (Priory Records, PRCD1147).

**About the work**

Ikon I: A mysterious movement, opening with a monody based on the four note motif. Time is suspended and all is shrouded in mystery. The music grows in strength but is interrupted by a sinister low C and the hint of a trumpet call: we are reminded that it is Gabriel who will announce the end of time. The ambiguous chords return and the movement ends in a veiled and hushed manner.

Ikon II: After a short call to arms the march begins: the four note idea becomes an urgent ostinato in the pedals and a war-like theme in the manuals. The summons is heard once more and the music becomes ever more agitated: the serried ranks of the heavenly host march across the heavens. The pedals thunder out various versions of a C major descending scale, beneath chords of immense power. All at once the vision is gone and the music subsides to nothing.

Ikon III: The cyclic motif has now become a beguiling charm, introducing a sinuous melody 'like a slow hypnotic dance'. The middle section introduces an element of tension, but this soon gives way to a reprise of the opening theme, now in a major key. The music rises in pitch as the gaze is directed heavenwards.

Ikon IV: This short toccata (to be played 'with a relentless and terrifying energy') is a *perpetuum mobile* that transforms the cyclic theme into a whirlwind of virtuosic figuration. In the final section the tempo increases to a frenzied pitch, and the theme is heard one last time before the suite ends in a blaze of C major on the full organ.

**also available by Neil Cox**

KEEP ME AS THE APPLE OF AN EYE  
for SSAATTBB, words from Psalm 17.8 and the antiphon from Compline

LAUDATE  
for organ, and inspired by Marc Chagall's Psalm 150 window in Chichester Cathedral

MISSA BREVIS  
a Mass setting for SATB and organ, words in Latin

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# I Prelude: Gabriel, the Might of God

Gabriel, herald of the mysteries of God. In his right hand he holds a shining lantern, in his left a mirror of green jasper, signifying the wisdom of God as a hidden mystery. The call of his trumpet will announce the second coming of Christ to the earth.

NEIL COX (b. 1955)

**Misterioso** ♩ = 76

[Cornet] *ad lib.* - like casting a spell

ORGAN

pressing on

## A

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4' + 2 2/3' *mf*

## B

26

*p*

2' only *mf*

31

**C**

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*pp*

*mp*

*deep, but clear in pitch*

32', 16', 8'

38

*ppp*

*mp*

*poco accel.*

43

**D** ♩ = 52

*mp*

16', 8' *mp*

47

mf

cresc.

f

mf

51

f

f

54

**E** ♩ = 100

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legato

ff

mf

[16' Fagotto]

pp

59

p

ff

3

5

pp

Tempo I  
[Cornet]

63

*mf* *p* *pp* *ppp* *p*

[Founds]

*mf* *mp* *p*

**F**

71

*ppp* *p* *pp*

[Founds]

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75

*ppp* *p*

80

*ad lib.* *ppp*