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Neil Cox

Four Ikons of the Archangels

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Four Ikons of the Archangels
for organ

I Prelude: Gabriel, the Might of God, page 3

II March: Michael, his Sword and Shield, page 7

III Sarabande: Raphael, the Healer, page 14

IV Toccata: Uriel, with the Fire of God, page 18

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, PRCDI 147).

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

A

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*

51

f

54

E ♩ = 100

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legato *ff* *mf*

[16' Fagotto]

pp

59

p *ff*

3 5

63

Tempo I
[Cornet]

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

[Fonds]

71

F

ppp

[Fonds]

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deep *pp*

75

ppp

p

80

ad lib.

ppp

II March: Michael, his Sword and Shield

Michael, vanquisher of Satan in the War in Heaven. The military commander of the heavenly host, his banner proclaims him guardian of the true faith.

Strong and purposeful ♩ = 126

Musical score for measures 1-5. The piece is in 4/4 time. Measure 1 starts with a treble clef and a forte (*f*) dynamic. A sixteenth-note figure is marked with a '6' above it. The bass clef part begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The score consists of three systems: the first system has two staves (treble and bass), and the second system has one staff (bass).

Musical score for measures 6-11. Measure 6 is marked with a '6' above the treble clef. The treble clef part features a piano (*p*) dynamic and a *sim.* (sustained) marking. The bass clef part is marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and includes the instruction 'driven'. The score consists of two systems, each with two staves (treble and bass).

Musical score for measures 12-17. A large red watermark 'PROMOTIONAL COPY for reading only' is overlaid across the score. The treble clef part is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The bass clef part continues with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The score consists of two systems, each with two staves (treble and bass).

Musical score for measures 18-23. The treble clef part features a piano (*p*) dynamic. The bass clef part concludes with a *legato* marking. The score consists of two systems, each with two staves (treble and bass).

24

pp *pp*

28

p *p* *pp*

34 **A**

pp *pp* *p*

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38

p *p* *p*

42

Musical score for measures 42-45. Treble clef with a melodic line of eighth and sixteenth notes. Bass clef with a bass line of quarter and eighth notes. A grand staff with a third bass clef line below.

46

Musical score for measures 46-49. Treble clef with sustained chords. Bass clef with a melodic line. Dynamic markings: *mf*, *legato*.

50

Musical score for measures 50-53. Treble clef with sustained chords. Bass clef with a melodic line. Dynamic markings: *pp*, *p*.

54

Musical score for measures 54-57. Treble clef with a melodic line. Bass clef with a bass line. Dynamic markings: *p*, *pp*, *f*.

10

B

Musical score for section B, measures 60-62. The score is written for piano and includes a separate bass line. Measure 60 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The piano part features a series of chords and melodic lines, with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte). The bass line consists of a few notes, including a half note G2 and a quarter note F#2.

Musical score for section B, measures 63-65. Measure 63 begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The piano part has a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) and includes a *[Tutti]* instruction. The bass line continues with a melodic line, also marked *ff*.

Musical score for section C, measures 66-68. Measure 66 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The piano part features a series of chords with a dynamic marking of *ff*. A large red watermark reading "PROMOTIONAL COPY for reading only" is overlaid on the score. The bass line consists of a few notes, including a half note Bb1 and a quarter note Ab1, marked *ff*.

Musical score for section C, measures 69-71. Measure 69 continues with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The piano part features a series of chords with a dynamic marking of *ff*. The bass line consists of a few notes, including a half note Bb1 and a quarter note Ab1, marked *ff*.

72

Musical score for measures 72-74. The system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass staff. The grand staff features a complex rhythmic accompaniment with many beamed eighth notes and chords. The bass staff has a few notes with a slur and a fermata.

75

Musical score for measures 75-77. The system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass staff. The grand staff continues with the complex rhythmic accompaniment. The bass staff has a few notes with a slur and a fermata.

78 **D**

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Musical score for measures 78-80. The system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass staff. The grand staff features a complex rhythmic accompaniment with many beamed eighth notes and chords. The bass staff has a few notes with a slur and a fermata. A large red watermark is overlaid on the score.

81

Musical score for measures 81-83. The system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass staff. The grand staff continues with the complex rhythmic accompaniment. The bass staff has a few notes with a slur and a fermata.

E
84

ff

ff

F
90

mf

mf

96

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p

p

G
100

pp

pp

104

p *p* 6

108

112

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pp *pp*

118

[Fonds]

pp *pp* awesome, frightening

III Sarabande: Raphael, the Healer

Raphael, the Healing Power of God, bearing the physician's alabaster jar.
He leads the guardian angels, and directs the Christian's journey towards heaven.

Like a slow hypnotic dance ♩ = 60

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a tempo of ♩ = 60. It consists of four systems of music, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass line.

- System 1 (Measures 1-6):** Treble clef starts with a *pp* dynamic. Bass clef has rests in measures 1-2, then chords in measures 3-6. A separate bass line starts in measure 3 with a *p* dynamic.
- System 2 (Measures 7-10):** Treble clef has a melodic line starting with a *mp espress.* dynamic. Bass clef has chords. A separate bass line continues with a *p* dynamic.
- System 3 (Measures 11-14):** Treble clef has a melodic line with a *mp* dynamic. Bass clef has chords. A separate bass line continues with a *p* dynamic.
- System 4 (Measures 15-18):** Treble clef has a melodic line with a *mp* dynamic. Bass clef has chords. A separate bass line continues with a *p* dynamic.

A large red watermark "PROMOTIONAL COPY for reading only" is overlaid across the middle of the score.

* Performance note: to be played somewhere between a single and a double dot.

19

Musical score for measures 19-22. Treble clef with a slur over the first four measures. Bass clef with a triplet in the second measure. A second bass clef line is below.

23 **A**

Musical score for measures 23-26. Treble clef with a slur over measures 23-24 and 25-26. Dynamics *mf*, *pp*, and *p* are indicated.

27

Musical score for measures 27-30. Treble clef with a slur over measures 27-28 and 29-30. A large red watermark "PROMOTIONAL COPY for reading only" is overlaid.

31

Musical score for measures 31-34. Treble clef with a slur over measures 31-32 and 33-34. Dynamics *cresc.* is indicated.

B

poco più mosso

III *p* *p*

34

mp *p*

C

39

tenuto

3

8' only

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44

deep *deep*

32', 16' 8' only 32', 16'

49 (III)

rall.

(I)

D Tempo primo

56

mp

pp

p

16', 8'

60

p

pp

pp

4' only

8' only

66

rit.

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71

** Performance note: lazy dotted notes.

IV Toccata: Uriel, with the Fire of God

Uriel, the interpreter of prophecies and protector from earthquakes, thunder and terror.
Regent of the sun, he carries with him the blazing fire of divine love.

With a relentless and terrifying energy ♩ = 112

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The score is in 2/4 time. The upper staves (treble and bass clefs) are empty. The lower staff (bass clef) contains four half notes: G#2, G2, F#2, and G2, all marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic.

5

Musical notation for measures 5-8. The score is in 2/4 time. The upper staves (treble and bass clefs) contain a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lower staff (bass clef) contains a series of chords. The dynamic is marked *III { p*.

9

Musical notation for measures 9-12. The score is in 2/4 time. The upper staves (treble and bass clefs) contain a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lower staff (bass clef) contains a series of chords. A large red watermark is overlaid on the score: **PROMOTIONAL COPY for reading only**.

13

Musical notation for measures 13-16. The score is in 2/4 time. The upper staves (treble and bass clefs) contain a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lower staff (bass clef) contains a series of chords.

17

A
21

25

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29

33

Musical score for measures 33-36. The system consists of three staves: Treble, Middle, and Bass. Measure 33 features a complex chordal texture in the Treble staff with a slur over the first two measures. The Middle staff has a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The Bass staff has a simple bass line. Measure 34 continues the Treble staff's texture. Measure 35 shows a change in the Treble staff's texture. Measure 36 concludes the system with a final chord in the Treble staff.

37

Musical score for measures 37-39. The system consists of three staves: Treble, Middle, and Bass. Measure 37 has a rest in the Treble staff and a forte (*f*) chord in the Middle staff. Measure 38 features a long slur over the Middle staff. Measure 39 has a forte (*f*) chord in the Bass staff.

40

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Musical score for measures 40-43. The system consists of three staves: Treble, Middle, and Bass. Measure 40 has a rest in the Treble staff and a forte (*f*) chord in the Middle staff. Measure 41 features a long slur over the Middle staff. Measure 42 has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) chord in the Bass staff. Measure 43 concludes the system with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) chord in the Bass staff.

44

Musical score for measures 44-47. The system consists of three staves: Treble, Middle, and Bass. Measure 44 has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) chord in the Treble staff. Measure 45 has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) chord in the Treble staff. Measure 46 has a piano (*pp*) chord in the Treble staff. Measure 47 concludes the system with a piano (*pp*) chord in the Treble staff.

49

II { *mp*

I { *ff*

ff

53 **B**

III { *mp*

mf

57

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III { *mp*

mf

61

III { *mp*

mf

65

Musical score for measures 65-68. The system consists of three staves. The top two staves are grand staff notation (treble and bass clefs). The bottom staff is a single bass clef staff. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with many sixteenth notes and rests.

C

69

Musical score for measures 69-72. The system consists of three staves. The top two staves are grand staff notation. The bottom staff is a single bass clef staff. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present in the first measure of the top staff. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns.

73

Musical score for measures 73-76. The system consists of three staves. The top two staves are grand staff notation. The bottom staff is a single bass clef staff. A large red watermark is overlaid on the score, reading "PROMOTIONAL COPY for reading only".

77

Musical score for measures 77-80. The system consists of three staves. The top two staves are grand staff notation. The bottom staff is a single bass clef staff. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns.

81

85

89

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93

98

II { *mp* } I { *ff* }

ff

102

D

ff *f*

106

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110

114

Musical score for measures 114-117. The score is written for piano and features a complex texture with multiple staves. The top staff is in treble clef, and the bottom two staves are in bass clef. The music consists of dense chords and melodic lines, with some notes marked with accidentals (sharps and flats). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat).

118

Musical score for measures 118-121. This system includes a chord symbol **E** above the first measure of the top staff. The notation continues with complex piano accompaniment in the same key signature as the previous system.

122

Musical score for measures 122-125. A large red watermark is overlaid on the score, reading "PROMOTIONAL COPY for reading only". The musical notation shows the continuation of the piano accompaniment.

126

Musical score for measures 126-129. The score continues with the same complex piano accompaniment style as the previous systems.

130 *8va*

134 *8va*

137

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F

140 *ff*

144

148

G [Tutti]

152

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ff

8va

156

8va

160

Musical score for measures 160-163. The system consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass staff. The grand staff features complex chordal textures with many accidentals (sharps and naturals) and rests. The bass staff has long horizontal lines indicating sustained notes or chords.

164

Musical score for measures 164-167. Similar to the previous system, it features a grand staff and a bass staff. The notation continues with complex chords and rests in the upper staves, and sustained notes in the bass staff.

168 ^{8^{va}}

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Musical score for measures 168-171. This system includes a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) at the beginning. The notation is similar to the previous systems, with complex chords and rests. A dashed line above the first staff indicates an octave transposition (^{8^{va}}).

172 **H**

Musical score for measures 172-175. This system begins with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) and a section marker **H** in a box. The notation continues with complex chords and rests across the grand staff and bass staff.

in strict time

176

ff

ff

181 Cornet

pp

ff

ff

188 **I**

ff

accel.

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ff

193

mf

mp

mf

$\text{♩} = 148$

198

pp

202

pp *f*

206

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pp

209

ff

212

ff

ff

216

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♩ = 52

220

fff

fff

