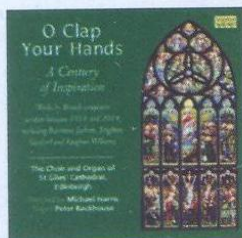


## O CLAP YOUR HANDS

Choir of St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, Peter Backhouse (org) /  
Michael Harris (dir)

Aegidius AGD 001 [63:13]



St Giles's excellent cathedral choir directed by Michael Harris is in fine voice for a programme of sacred music written between 1914 and 2014. Starting with Bairstow's rousing *Blessed city, heavenly Salem*, the performers chart their way

across the decades, taking in on the way the likes of Francis Jackson, Kenneth Leighton, and the very fine *Lo! God is here!* by Philip Moore, which is given a breath-taking interpretation. Sally Beamish's rhythmic *Gaudent in coelis* makes a good contrast to Cecilia McDowall's ethereal *Aurea luce* and there are cathedral

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commissions for two of the younger generation: Stuart Murray Mitchell and Chris Hutchings. The programme is rounded off nicely by Stanford, Holst and Vaughan Williams.

Recorded in good acoustics, the lovely-toned 1992 Rieger organ sounds glorious in the skilful and sympathetic hands of Peter Backhouse. If I have one criticism, it is that the choir's soprano soloists sacrifice their words for tone.

SHIRLEY RATCLIFFE