



NEWS

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FRANCIS POTT : **Christus** - Passion Symphony for Organ Solo

FRANCIS POTT was born in 1957. He read Music at Cambridge University where he specialised in composition, studying with Robin Holloway and Hugh Wood. His compositions include piano, organ, choral and chamber works, and he is currently working on a Piano Concerto. He is also active as a pianist and teacher, and sings with the internationally famous choir of Winchester Cathedral.

It was however with his monumental organ symphony **Christus**, first performed in 1991 at Westminster Cathedral, that he achieved recognition as something more than an ordinary composer. The extended cyclic plan of this Passion Symphony, with its duration of well over two hours, takes British organ music into a new sphere. Francis Pott has a fine sense of dramatic and musical structure, and an ear for atmospheric and effective writing for the organ. These essential qualities contribute to a work which is not only innovative in the sheer scale of its conception but also convincing in its musical achievement.

Francis Pott's Rhapsody for organ, **Empyrean** is already in print from UNITED MUSIC PUBLISHERS. **Christus** is now scheduled for publication in three volumes, Volume 1 to appear later in 1992.

A CD recording of **Christus**, played by the dedicatee Iain Simcock, has now been released on the Priory label, PCRD 390, and is available from UMP.

(**Christus**) "...is clearly one of the major works for organ in this century"

Musical Opinion

"Whilst rich in extra-musical resonances, the large-scale cohesion and integrated thematic process of **Christus** fulfills its purely generic description as 'Symphony for Organ Solo' with monumental conviction"

Musical Times

Empyrean: "There can be no doubt that Francis Pott is a composer to be reckoned with...This is honest music of a quality which is rare in the contemporary organ repertoire."

Organists' Review