

Songs of the Coromandel Coast Malabar Tsunami Requiem

Chris Williams

A young boy with dark skin and hair, wearing a dark patterned waist cloth and dark cargo pants, stands in the shallow ocean waves. He is smiling and holding a piece of white coral in his right hand. The background shows the ocean with white-capped waves under a blue sky. In the foreground, there is a pile of green and yellow fishing nets.

English Philharmonia & Chorus
English Brass
Choir of Eltham College
James Gilchrist *tenor*
Graham Wili *conductor*

A live recording of the hugely successful concert performed at London's Royal Festival Hall in May 2008, this CD features the world première of a choral work about the Asian tsunami of 2004, by British Composer Chris Williams.

This powerful and moving new piece, *Songs of the Coromandel Coast*, greeted by a standing ovation, is a sequel to Williams' *Tsunami Requiem*, also featured here, along with his new brass quintet *Malabar*. Both choral works were commissioned by Berkhamsted and Chorleywood Choral Societies, whose members form the English Philharmonia Chorus.

Tsunami Requiem retells the events on Boxing Day 2004 intertwined with text from the requiem mass.

Songs of the Coromandel Coast shows life three years on, using four contrasting sea shanties making this work powerful, moving and accessible. *Malabar* provides a refreshing interlude.

Songs of the Coromandel Coast features:

- James Gilchrist on glorious form
- The internationally renowned Choir of Eltham College singing with clarity and power
- English Philharmonia and Chorus in stunning form under their principal conductor Graham Wili
- Sparkling support from English Brass, accompanying *Tsunami Requiem* and performing *Malabar* with supreme mastery

Price: £12 (inclusive of postage and packing)

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