



ERIC WHITACRE

GLOBAL COMPOSER AND PERFORMER LAUNCHES NEW ALBUM

LIGHT & GOLD

ON DECCA RECORDS

ALBUM LAUNCH AND NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT: 23 September 2010

RELEASE DATE: 18 October 2010

Eric Whitacre is the American choral composer who became a YouTube phenomenon when he was inspired to create his Virtual Choir. Each participant sang their individual track, guided by Eric's conductor video, and the piece was edited together from 185 separate parts. The video achieved over one million views within sixty days.

The piece was called *Lux Aurumque* or 'Light & Gold' which is the title track on this new album for Decca, the first album on which he interprets his own works with his new professional choir The Eric Whitacre Singers, and vocal group Laudibus.

The album features the companion piece to *Lux Aurumque*, *Nox Aurumque* (Night & Gold). Both have lyrics by Eric's great friend and inspiration, the poet Charles Anthony Silvestri who also provided lyrics for *Leonardo Dreams of his Flying Machine*. Whitacre originally composed *Sleep* using Robert Frost's *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening* but it fell foul of copyright, and Silvestri stepped in to provide words to fit the music. The Five Hebrew Love Songs on the album are dedicated to his wife, the soprano Hila Plitmann. Whitacre captures the chill of W.B. Yeats' *The Stolen Child* performed here by legendary vocal group The King's Singers. Whitacre says of *A Boy and A Girl* which along with *Water Night* sets words by Octavio Paz: "I'm often asked which of my compositions is my favourite. I don't really have one that I love more than the others, but I do feel that the four measures that musically paint the text "never kissing" may be the truest notes I've ever written." The instantly appealing *Seal Lullaby* was originally conceived for an animated film based on Kipling's *The White Seal*.

This Autumn Eric takes up residency as Visiting Fellow at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. During his tenure he will be working with Cambridge collegiate choirs, will offer lectures and masterclasses to the University and will compose a new choral work which will be premiered later in the academic year. On 24 October Eric conducts a programme of American music with the London Symphony Orchestra and premieres his *Songs of Immortality* with the London Symphony Chorus.

Eric Whitacre introduces *Light & Gold*: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gvd5PiaHuk>

Album launch details:

23 September 6.30pm, Live performance and Q & A with Alex James.

One Marylebone (directly opposite Great Portland Street Station)

MEDIA ENQUIRIES AND RSVP:

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