

**Tavener: No Longer Mourn For Me**  
Steven Isserlis, cello  
Philharmonia Orchestra, Omer Meir Wellber conductor  
Trinity Boys Choir



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## **Classical home listening: John Tavener: No Longer Mourn for Me; Josquin Masses and more**

Steven Isserlis and friends record a heartfelt tribute to the late, great British composer, while the Tallis Scholars conclude their epic Josquin mass cycle



▲ Omer Meir Wellber and Steven Isserlis in a recording session for No Longer Mourn for Me. Photograph: S Perry

● At once tough and inspiring, the cellist **Steven Isserlis**'s tribute to **John Tavener**, **No Longer Mourn for Me** (Hyperion), combines various musical forces, giving a chance to hear Tavener in his many creative guises. Isserlis is joined by seven fellow cellists in his own arrangements of Tavener's serene *Preces and Responses* (2013) and his Shakespeare sonnet setting *No Longer Mourn for Me* (2010). Other works feature the soloists Matthew Rose (bass) and Abi Sampa (Sufi singer), Trinity Boys Choir and the Philharmonia Orchestra, conducted by Omer Meir Wellber. The music charts the close friendship between composer and cellist and their families. It also pays homage to Isserlis's late wife, Pauline, to whom Tavener dedicated the powerful monodrama for bass *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* (2012). A highlight is the mantra *Mahámátar* (2000), in which chant is overlaid with an improvised hymn of praise: Tavener at his most eclectic and ethereal.

<https://www.theguardian.com/music/2020/nov/07/john-tavener-no-longer-mourn-for-me-steven-isserlis-philharmonia-wellber-review-josquin-masses-missa-dux-tallis-scholars-phillips>