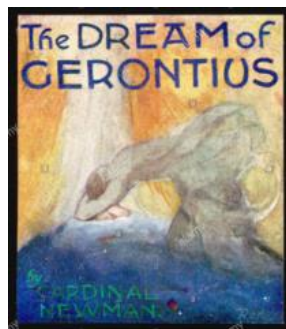


Choir News

Issue 184



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THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS

In 1900, Elgar was asked to write a piece for the Birmingham Triennial Music Festival. And because he was the sort of person who enjoyed a challenge, he decided to write a piece about life, death and what comes afterwards. And, boy, did he pull it off !

So what's it about?

Oh just life, death and the meaning of life...

The massive piece for chorus and orchestra is based on a Victorian poem by Cardinal John Henry Newman. Elgar really went to town on the orchestration of *Dream of Gerontius* – he was one of the most famous composers of the time, after all. So when he asked for a full-size orchestra, three choirs and soloists, he got them. With an organ thrown in.

Adapted from a piece written by 'IKR' for Classic FM



INSTRUMENTALISTS REQUIRED

Pete Davies is a GCS Tenor and writes:

I write pop music and as I am writing one of my songs in number 1 in the West Midlands and number 1 in Gloucester, whatever that means! I'm looking for someone who can add a very short section to a track I am doing, I need someone who plays the flute, oboe, French horn or all 3. I can't pay huge amounts of money but I will give them a token sum if they are interested and suitable. It's a really simple section but I know from experience that classically trained musicians find it difficult switching to pop rather than the reverse. I'm looking for someone keen and interested. It could lead to bigger and better things as my songs are about to be promoted on national radio, so who knows. Anyway, anyone interested can ring me, ASAP. My number is 07795 548420. Also if they don't get through, keep ringing, I'm on the outskirts of the forest of Dean and I think that bears sometimes gnaw the mobile phone masts!

