

A close-up, black and white photograph of numerous organ pipes of varying heights and diameters, arranged in rows. The pipes are made of metal and have a slightly weathered appearance. The background is blurred, focusing attention on the pipes in the foreground.

Gracious Groove

the organ music of Dick Hyman

Benjamin Saunders, organist
the organ of Leeds Cathedral, UK

**Pro
Organo**

7269

Gracious Groove

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**performed by Benjamin Saunders
on the organ of Leeds Cathedral, UK**

NOTES BY DICK HYMAN, 2016

I am proud and grateful that Benjamin Saunders has devoted an entire album to my pieces, which he plays on the magnificent Klais organ of Leeds Cathedral. Years ago, just before the end of the last century, he and I became acquainted when I played a number of seasons at the Edinburgh International Jazz Festival through the graces of Eric Milligan, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh Council. Our friendship led to Mr. Saunders presenting the premiere in 1998 of *Millennial Countdown*, a lengthy piece for pipe organ in three movements,

which he performed at Greyfriars Church in Edinburgh. In the present recording, Mr. Saunders has beautifully succeeded in marrying the quirky jazz and blues elements of the three movements with the austere dignity of a pipe organ. His use of the trumpet stop in the full organ opening of Movement I is memorable, and the gentle swell flutes and vox humana with tremolo which he invokes for Movement II are, it seems to me, exactly the right registration. A full-throated trumpet combination punctuates the finale of Movement III.

Mr. Saunders follows with readings of a group of shorter pieces which appeared in a 1972 folio comprising six pieces. Never before recorded, these miniatures no doubt include elements of my three years of service as the organist during the same period for an American/Canadian television game show, *Beat the Clock*. At that time, each half-hour program consisted of four games in segments lasting up to one minute. The improvised underscoring to the stunts required of the contestants very likely led to the brief *Air for Rock Organ, Cocktails and Pedals, Throwaway, Brazil 99, Under the Fingers, and Slumpin'*, all of which were published collectively as *The Happy Breed*. Following that group are Mr. Saunders' exemplary arrangements of a number of compositions which I originally conceived for piano. He begins with *Thinking of Bix*, recorded first in 1998 as an homage to Bix Beiderbecke, the trumpeter/pianist/composer of the 1920's, whose work I have always revered.

Indiana Variations are another set of short pieces. Published in 2000 and beginning with a straightforward reading of the original 1918

tune (*Back Home Again*) *In Indiana*, the 12 variations range in tempi and premise from the first, *Swinging Indiana* through a Monkish item entitled *Thelonious I.O.U.*, the Oscar Petersonian title piece, *Gracious Groove*, a chromatic and Joplinesque musing known as *Requiem for the Century*, to the appropriate *Big Finish*. Although a piano demonstration disc was included with the published folio, no recording as such has ever been issued, to my knowledge.

I recorded the hymn-like American folk song, *Shenandoah* on piano in 2000 in an album entitled *In Recital*. It transforms beautifully in Mr. Saunders' meditative yet powerful arrangement for pipe organ. He begins with oboe and flute; adds vox celestes; then small, large, and larger diapasons for the strongest sections; finally he subsides to celestes only. I am in awe of his mastery of these subtleties as well as for his devotion to this project.





THE ORGAN OF LEEDS CATHEDRAL

The Grand Organ of Leeds Cathedral was completed early in 2010 and inaugurated on 16 May of that year by Benjamin Saunders. A central situation and wonderful acoustic make the Cathedral a dramatic liturgical setting and an attractive concert venue within the city.

The original organ was built specifically for the Cathedral in 1904 by Norman and Beard. Following a period of silence of around 30 years, Johannes Klais Orgelbau was chosen to reconstruct and enlarge the instrument to serve the requirements of the restored Cathedral and the new position of the choir at the East End. Rather than follow the well-trodden path of producing yet another eclectic organ, supposedly capable of playing any repertoire, it was decided that an instrument of great character in harmony with the spirit of an Edwardian Arts and Crafts building, and within the embrace of the richness of the Catholic liturgical tradition, should instead be pursued. The organ's design and development were supervised by Benjamin Saunders and consultant David Sanger.

In order to preserve the English Edwardian style of the Norman and Beard instrument, the historic 1904 pipework was carefully restored on its original chests. The organ now has seven divisions, controlled from a four-manual console that has 78 stops and which features a new, unique system of allocating manual departments to keyboards. Predominant architectural features of the Cathedral, such as the ubiquitous trapezium motif and the tooth edging design, are reflected in the console. The number of different materials used has intentionally been limited as far as possible, such that the metal surrounds of the swell pedals are of the same material as the toe pistons and the swell pedals of the same material as the stop jams. The keys are made of bone and ebony, and the inlay of the console oak is constructed out of ebony and Swiss pear.

The organ specification is found on the following two pages.

THE ORGAN SPECIFICATION OF LEEDS CATHEDRAL, UK

Norman and Beard, 1904 • Johannes Klais Orgelbau, 2010

I. Nave Great C-a3

Double Open Diapason 16'
Open Diapason I 8'
Open Diapason II 8'
Hohl Flute 8'
Principal 4'
Harmonic Flute 4'
Fifteenth 2'
Mixture III
Trumpet 8'

II. Choral Great C-a3

Open Diapason 8'
Bourdon 8'
Dulciana 8'
Principal 4'
Flute 4'
Gemshorn 2'
Cornettino III

III. Choral Swell C-a3

Rohr Flute 8'
Salcional 8'
Viole Céleste 8'
Principal 4'
Flauto Traverso 4'
Mixture III
Cornopean 8'
Oboe d'Amour 8'
Tremulant
Sub Octave
Super Octave
Unison Off

IV. Nave Swell C-a3

Bourdon 16'
Geigen Principal 8'
Lieblich Gedeckt 8'
Gamba 8'
Voix Céleste 8'
Gemshorn 4'
Lieblich Flöte 4'
Mixture III
Double Trumpet 16'
Horn 8'
Oboe 8'
Vox Humana 8'
Tremulant
Sub Octave
Super Octave
Unison Off

Couplers

Choral Great to Nave Great
Nave Great to Choral Great
Choral Swell to I
Choral Swell to II
Choral Swell to Nave Swell
Nave Swell to I
Nave Swell to II
Solo to I
Solo to II
Solo to III
Choral Great to Pedal
Nave Great to Pedal
Choral Swell to Pedal
Nave Swell to Pedal
Solo to Pedal

Accessories

Eight thumb pistons to each division
Eight general thumb pistons
Eight pedal toe pistons
Eight swell/general toe pistons
Reversible definable toe piston
Full complement of reversible
coupler thumb pistons
Midi sequencing

IV. Nave Solo C-a3

Tuba 8'
Octave Tuba 4'
Solo Flute 8'
Clarinet 8'

Choral Pedal C-f1

Sub Bass 16'

Nave Pedal C-f1

Harmonic Bass 32'
Open Diapason 16'
Violone 16'
Bourdon 16'
Quint Bass 10 2/3'
Octave 8'
Bass Flute 8'
Trombone 16'



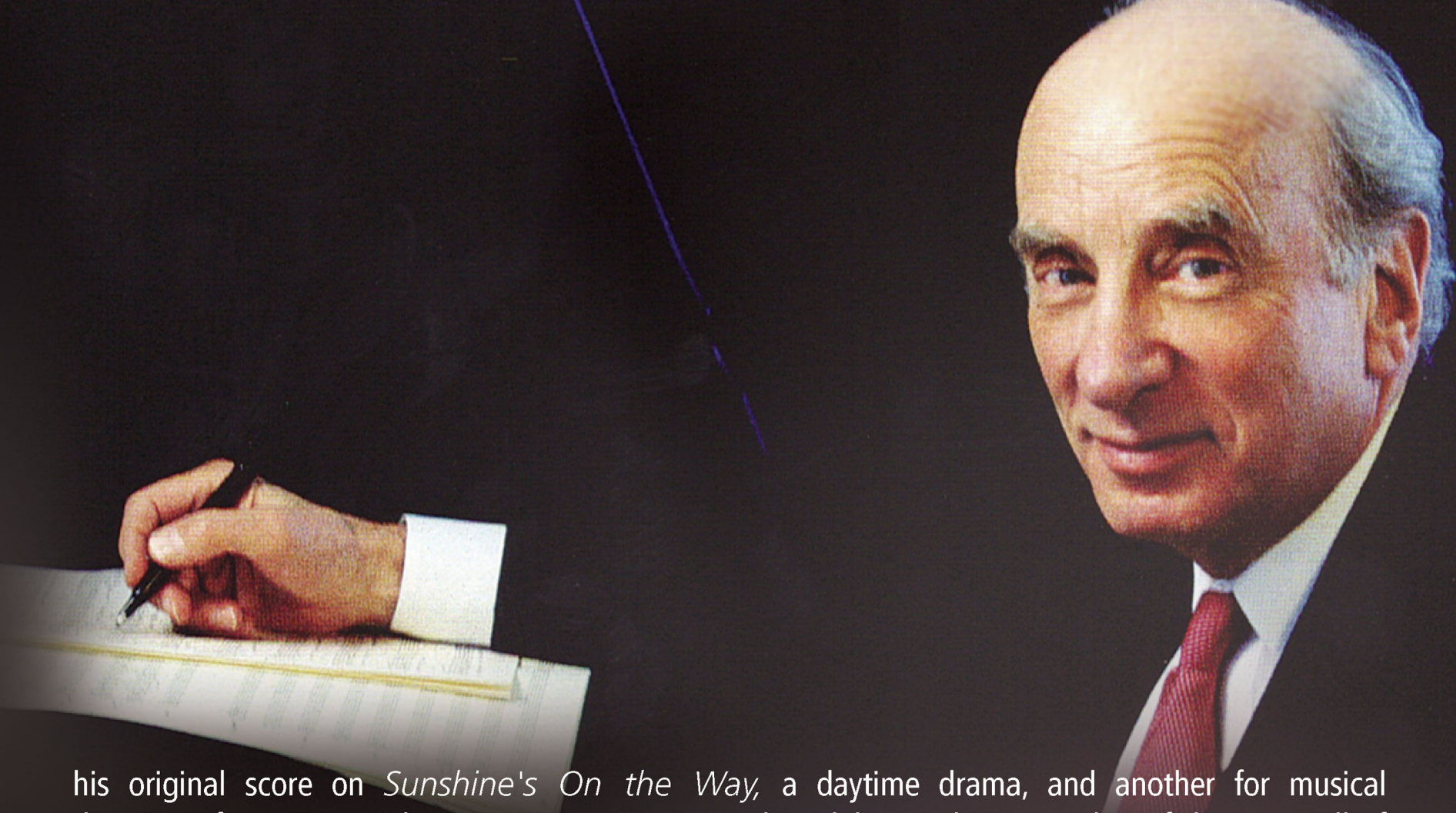
LEEDS CATHEDRAL

The present Leeds Cathedral was designed by a London Catholic architect J.H. Eastwood (1843-1913) and his assistant S.K. Greenslade (1866-1955). Together they produced an outstanding design, both internally and externally, in the Arts and Crafts neo-Gothic style, which is unique amongst Catholic cathedrals in England. The consecration of the cathedral took place in July 1924. The appearance of the cathedral today results from a number of developments that have occurred since 1904. Externally the most significant change is the addition of Wheeler Hall in St Anne's Street which opened in 2003 and serves as the cathedral's Pastoral and Conference Centre. Internally, the cathedral was reordered first in 1963, a process that removed many of the original furnishings, especially on the sanctuary. In 2005-06 the interior was refurbished and a second reordering carried out, the fruits of which are more sympathetic to the designs of Eastwood and Greenslade. The Lady Chapel, including Pugin's high altar from the first St Anne's Cathedral, was restored in 2007 and in 2010 work on the reconstruction and enlargement of the original 1904 Norman & Beard pipe organ was completed.

DICK HYMAN

Throughout a busy musical career which began in the early 1950's, Dick Hyman has functioned as pianist, organist, arranger, music director and composer. His versatility in all of these areas has resulted in film scores, orchestral and choral compositions, much chamber music, concert appearances worldwide, and well over 100 albums recorded under his own name, plus many in support of other artists. Whilst developing a masterful facility for improvisation in his own style, he has also explored and recorded the music of Scott Joplin, Jelly Roll Morton, James P. Johnson, and other early piano figures, which he includes in his frequent recitals, along with the music of Gershwin, Arlen, Berlin, Rodgers, Ellington and others of the American Songbook. In addition to performing as a soloist, he has often been seen in two-piano concerts with Derek Smith, Roger Kellaway, and others.

In addition to his activities in the jazz and concert worlds, Mr. Hyman had a prolific career in New York as a studio musician and won seven Most Valuable Player awards from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. He was the music director for Benny Goodman's final television appearance on PBS as well as for the early years of *In Performance at the White House*. He received an Emmy for



his original score on *Sunshine's On the Way*, a daytime drama, and another for musical direction of a PBS special on songwriter/pianist Eubie Blake, and is a member of the Jazz Hall of Fame of the Rutgers Institute of Jazz Studies as well as the New Jersey Jazz Society.

In years past, Mr. Hyman served as music director for radio/tv personality Arthur Godfrey, and was the orchestrator of the Broadway musical, *Sugar Babies*, starring Mickey Rooney and Ann Miller. He served as composer / music director for the Woody Allen films *Zelig*, *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, *Broadway Danny Rose*, *Stardust Memories*, *Hannah and Her Sister*, *Radio Days*, *Bullets Over Broadway*, *Mighty Aphrodite*, *Everyone Says 'I Love You'*, *Sweet and Lowdown*, as well as other films such as *Moonstruck* and *Scott Joplin*.

In the dance field, Mr. Hyman composed and performed the score for the Cleveland/San Jose Ballet Company's *Piano Man*, as well as for several dances with Twyla Tharp.

Dick Hyman's Century of Jazz Piano, an encyclopedic series of solo recordings and analysis, is published by Hal Leonard Music. More recent recordings are with clarinetist Ken Peplowski, singer Heather Masse, and Mr. Hyman's daughter, violinist Judy Hyman.

dickhyman.com

BENJAMIN SAUNDERS

Benjamin Saunders was born in Warrington and educated at George Heriot's School in Edinburgh. He received his first organ lessons at the age of sixteen at St Mary's Metropolitan Cathedral, Edinburgh and two years later won an Organ Scholarship to Downing College, Cambridge, where he studied with Peter Hurford. Upon graduating, he held organist posts at the Cathedrals of St Giles' Edinburgh, Blackburn, and Chester and continued organ studies with David Sanger, Ann Bond and Michel Bouvard.

In 2002, Saunders was appointed Director of Music for the Diocese of Leeds, leading the department at Leeds Cathedral. Under his leadership, the Cathedral has become the centre of England's largest choral programme, made up of 2500 children meeting weekly. This comprises six boys choirs, six girls choirs, 45 school choirs, a choir school and a professional adult choir. During this time, he has been privileged to act as consultant and adviser to a number of the UK and Ireland's other musically pre-eminent cathedrals. He has been a guest speaker at a variety of university conferences across the UK, Ireland and the United States

and a judge for the BBC Young Chorister of the Year Competition. He was appointed a Director of Leeds College of Music in 2013 and Visiting Professor of Music at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana in 2015.

In common with other major ecclesiastical foundations, the Cathedral operates a programme of eight sung weekly services of Mass and Vespers. National BBC broadcasts are a major feature of the year for all the choirs, with nine taking place in 2014. The Cathedral Choirs have recorded many CDs and their 2013 CD of Duruflé's Complete Choral Works has attracted widespread critical acclaim. In 2015 CD releases included Arvo Pärt's choral works and complete organ music and organ discs by Andriessen and Elgar. There is a programme of concerts with venues including Leeds Town Hall and St. George's Hall, Bradford, collaborations with professional orchestras and choral societies and foreign choir tours. In 2014, the Cathedral Junior Boys' Choir recorded the soundtrack to a new film pilot, 'The White King', featuring actors famous for 'Game of Thrones' and 'Broadchurch' and Bradford Catholic Youth Choir recorded the choral soundtrack for 'London Fields', a major new film with Johnny

Depp and Billy Bob Thornton. Notable recent concerts include Paco Peña's *Requiem for the Earth*, Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* and Karl Orff's *Carmina Burana*.

As an organist, Saunders aims to present a varied and accessible programme to delight audiences both young and old, be they new to organ music or lifelong devotees of the instrument. His solo repertoire includes classical, popular and jazz works, some familiar and others new or recently rediscovered. He has also transcribed many orchestral works for the organ and these arrangements often form a popular part of his concert programmes.

Saunders has performed to HM the Queen, Princess Anne and US President Carter and worked with conductor Carl Davis and jazz virtuoso Dick Hyman. Solo tours have led him to give organ recitals in Russia, France, Italy, Holland, Germany, Austria, Slovenia and the United States. Major international recitals have included Koenigsberg Cathedral in Kaliningrad (Russia), Cologne Cathedral, Perugia Cathedral, Berlin Cathedral, Stuttgart Abbey, the Basilica of St Lorenzo in Florence, the Church of the Incarnation in Dallas and the inauguration of the new organ in the Abbey of the Genesee,

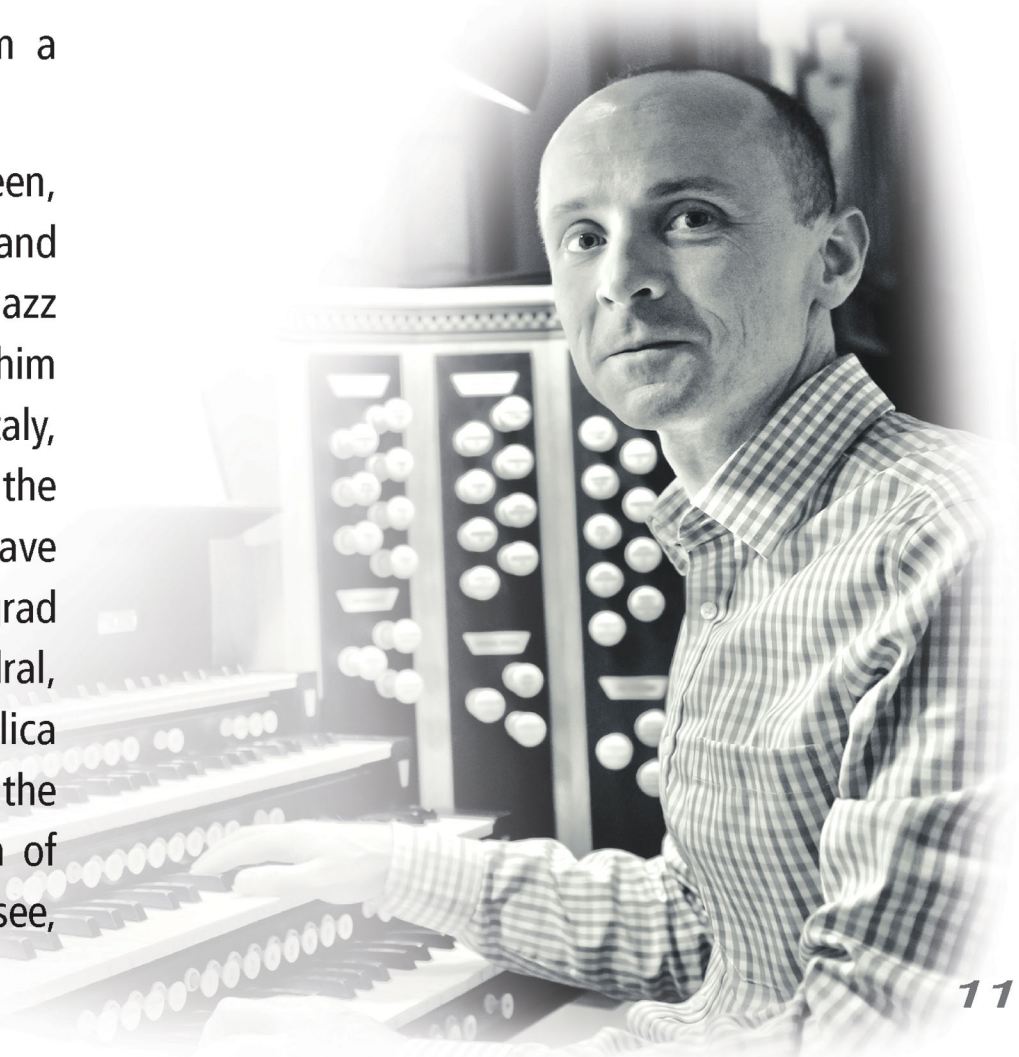
New York. Saunders has recorded both as organist and conductor for Herald AV and also for Brilliant Classics with a landmark recording of the complete organ works of Uzbek composer Georgi Mushel. He has also been a drummer in two rock bands and keyboardist in the Edinburgh International Jazz Festival.

Further information can be found at:

www.benjaminisaunders.org

www.dioceseofleedsmusic.org.uk

www.facebook.com/DioceseofLeedsMusic





Gracious Groove

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Millennial Countdown • 18:27

- 1 Movement I. • 8:30
- 2 Movement II. • 3:46
- 3 Movement III. • 6:11

The Happy Breed • 12:20

publ. Carlin America Inc., obo Piedmont Music Company

- 4 Air for rock organ • 3:00
- 5 Cocktails and pedals • 1:46
- 6 Throwaway • 1:47
- 7 Brazil 99 • 1:49
- 8 Under the fingers • 1:38
- 9 Slumpin' • 2:20

- 10 Thinking About Bix • 4:48

Indiana Variations • 23:01

- 11 Swinging Indiana • 1:01
- 12 Ready or Not • 1:08
- 13 Escape From The Woojies • 1:42
- 14 Retro / Bix Mix • 2:25
- 15 Walking and Chewing • 1:21
- 16 Ain't It Just The Truth? • 2:13
- 17 In A Manhattan Minute • 1:26
- 18 Requiem For the Century • 3:00
- 19 In Steady Pursuit • 1:53
- 20 Thelonius I.O.U. • 1:37
- 21 Gracious Groove • 1:37
- 22 Points Of View • 2:10
- 23 Big Finish • 1:28
- 24 Variations on Shenandoah • 6:51

total playing time: 65' 27"
ProOrgano.com

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