

Andrew Clements
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Buy *Missa Super Flumina Babylonis* now.

Though the extraordinary polyphony of the Spanish Renaissance is dominated by the music of Tomás Luis de Victoria, more and more of the works of Victoria's 16th-century contemporaries are emerging from his giant shadow.

This collection of works by Francisco Guerrero (1528-1599) includes the first recordings of three hymns recently discovered by the conductor Michael Noone among a manuscript collection in Toledo cathedral; they appear to be his earliest surviving works, written while he was studying in Toledo.

Here, the hymns are placed in a sequence that also includes Guerrero's best-known work, *Ave Virgo Sanctissima*, and one of his 19 extant masses, the five-part *Missa Super Flumina Babylonis*.

The liturgical music is interleaved both with the plainsong sources on which it is based: the Spanish choir *Schola Antiqua* sings those, while Noone's *Ensemble Plus Ultra* takes the polyphonic settings and with interludes by the wind instruments of *His Majestys Sagbutts*. A very impressive compilation.