

The "Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis" is scored for a string orchestra divided into three sections: a full string orchestra (quartet), a smaller chamber orchestra, and a string quartet. This arrangement allows for a rich, spatially separated texture in the performance, creating a unique and immersive sonic experience.

The composition begins with a presentation of Tallis's original hymn tune and then elaborates upon it with Vaughan Williams's own harmonies and melodic ideas. The music ebbs and flows, creating a sense of timeless serenity and contemplation. It is characterized by its lush harmonies, modal scales, and an overall sense of nostalgia and spirituality.

The "Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis" is often described as one of the quintessential examples of English pastoral music. It has been widely acclaimed for its beauty and emotional depth and has become a staple of the classical orchestral repertoire. Vaughan Williams's use of Tallis's theme and his masterful orchestration have made this composition a beloved and enduring work in the world of classical music.



SCHOENBERG:

# TRANSFIGURED NIGHT

THE STRINGS OF THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC • DIMITRI MITROPOULOS, CONDUCTOR



"Verklärte Nacht" (Transfigured Night), Op. 4, is a string sextet composed by Austrian composer Arnold Schoenberg in 1899. It is one of Schoenberg's most famous early works and is considered a pivotal piece in the transition from the late Romantic style to the modernism that would come to define much of his later work.

The piece is inspired by Richard Dehmel's poem of the same name, which tells the story of a man and a woman walking in a moonlit forest. The woman reveals to the man that she is carrying another man's child, and she fears that he will reject her because of it. However, the man reassures her of his love and acceptance, and their love is "transfigured" or transformed into something more beautiful and profound in the moonlight.

Schoenberg's music captures the emotional intensity and depth of the poem, with lush harmonies and a richly expressive melody. It is often seen as a prime example of late-Romantic music, with its chromaticism and expressive harmonies. At the same time, it foreshadows Schoenberg's future developments in music, as it hints at the use of atonality and expressionism that would

become central to his later compositions.

"Transfigured Night" is typically performed by a string sextet consisting of two violins, two violas, and two cellos. It has been praised for its emotional power and its ability to convey the story and emotions of the poem through music. It remains a well-regarded and frequently performed work in the chamber music repertoire.

The "Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis" is a renowned orchestral composition by the English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. Vaughan Williams composed this piece in 1910, and it is considered one of his most notable and enduring works. The piece is known for its lush and evocative harmonies, as well as its incorporation of Renaissance musical elements.

The composition is based on a hymn tune attributed to the English composer Thomas Tallis (c. 1505–1585), specifically the melody from Tallis's hymn "Why Fum'th in Fight." Vaughan Williams was deeply interested in English folk music and the music of the English Renaissance, and this work reflects his fascination with these traditions.

# **ARNOLD SCHOENBERG - TRANSFIGURED NIGHT**

# **VAUGHAN WILLIAMS - FANTASIA ON A THEME BY THOMAS TALLIS**

**DIMITRI MITROPOULOS - THE STRINGS OF THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC**

**1 Transfigured Night (Verklarte Nacht) Op. 4 25:08**  
**2 Fantasia On A Theme By Thomas Tallis 12:40**

Released 1958

Sourced from a Columbia 6-eyes Original pressing

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