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Charlotte Church

Prelude... The Best of Charlotte Church

With international record sales topping 10 million albums, Charlotte Church is the world's most successful classical crossover female artist. Born in Llandaff, Cardiff, on February 21, 1986, she became an international sensation with the release of her debut album, *Voice Of An Angel*, released just after she'd turned 13. That record, as did her 1999 self-titled second album and her 2000 Christmas collection *Dream A Dream*, achieved platinum status in the United States. Ms. Church's last album, *Enchantment*, was released in the autumn of 2001 and debuted at #15 on the Billboard Top 200 album chart.

Charlotte Church has garnered worldwide acclaim for offering audiences something completely unique...herself. It's a quality that comes across not only in the dynamics and diversity of her repertoire--which includes Broadway musicals, opera, chamber music, Gaelic airs and pop songs--but in the captivating charm and poise of this 16 year-old Welsh singing sensation. Charlotte Church not only has "the voice of an angel," but a "wicked" flare for life.

Over the course of four albums in as many years (1998's *Voice Of An Angel*, 1999's *Charlotte Church*, 2000's Christmas offering, *Dream A Dream*, and 2001's *Enchantment*), she has racked up international sales in excess of ten million units, earning a spot as one of Billboard's Top Ten best selling female vocalists worldwide for the year 2000, a list that included Madonna and Janet Jackson, among others. Her concerts are consistent sellouts--from the Hollywood Bowl to an appearance before 70,000 fans in London's Hyde Park--and she has shared the studio and stage with a wide array of top artists: from



Placido Domingo to Wyclef Jean; Billy Gilman to the London Symphony Orchestra. Charlotte Church is the youngest artist to ever have a #1 album on the UK Classical charts.

Prelude...The Best of Charlotte Church brings together -- for the first time in a single collection -- many of Charlotte's most powerful and captivating performances. With selections culled from each of her full-length albums as well as four newly recorded tracks, **Prelude...The Best of Charlotte Church** showcases the full range of her repertoire, serving as an ideal introduction to the artist as well as the ultimate Charlotte Church compilation.

Prelude... The Best of Charlotte Church reprises "Pie Jesu" (from *Requiem* by Andrew Lloyd Webber), the traditional Ulster air "My Lagan Love," "In Trutina" (from *Carmina burana* by Carl Orff), Cesar Franck's "Panis Angelicus," and "Amazing Grace" from Charlotte's debut album *Voice Of An Angel*. "Just Wave Hello," "La Pastorella" (from *Soirees musicales* by Gioachino Rossini), and the traditional Irish ballad "She Moved Through The Fair" are drawn from *Charlotte Church*. "Ave Maria" (adapted to the 1st Prelude of Johann Sebastian Bach) and "Dream A Dream - (Elysium)" (Charlotte's duet with Billy Gilman) were found originally on *Dream A Dream*. From *Enchantment* come "The Flower Duet" (composed by Leo Delibes with text by Edmond Gondinet and Phillippe Gille), Habañera" (composed by Georges Bizet), and "The Prayer" (duet with Josh Groban, composed by David Foster and Carole Bayer Sager). "All Love Can Be" was originally found on the movie soundtrack *A Beautiful Mind*. Rounding out **Prelude...The Best of Charlotte Church** are four new tracks: "It's The Heart That Matters Most," Gabriel Faure's "Tantum Ergo," Paul Simon's "Bridge Over Troubled Water," and Pietro Mascagni's "Sancta Maria."

In spite of her extraordinary success, Charlotte has managed to keep a firm grip on the essentials of growing up. At home in Cardiff, she maintains a lively circle of friends, with whom she shares the vital interests of every adolescent girl--fads, fashion and popular music. Her musical tastes run from opera to hip-hop to soul.



"I'm sixteen," Charlotte cheerfully admits. "I go with the flow. I'd say it's important to meet challenges head-on. If there's something you really want to accomplish, but you're scared to try, that probably means you should give it a go. You only live once."

It's a maxim Charlotte has followed throughout her extraordinary career. A gifted singer from the age of nine, she landed a major recording contract after a single appearance on a local TV talent show and, while she's never looked back, she also remains remarkably levelheaded about her success. "I never wanted to be famous," she asserts. "I just wanted to sing. But at the same time, I didn't want to be just another pop star. I love so many different styles of music, I wanted to be able to do them all."

True to her conviction, Charlotte set out to carve a completely unique musical niche for herself, creating, in the process, a worldwide following that spans borders as easily as it does generations, reaching audiences of every musical persuasion.

"I don't mind being considered a classical artist," she reveals, "because that's what my background and training have been. But I don't want to be stuck in any one category. It's true that, because of my age, I don't have the life experience to sing about things like love and death. But, as I get older, I find I can be a bit more of a narrator, telling the story and conveying the emotion of a song. And that opens a whole new world of possibilities."

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