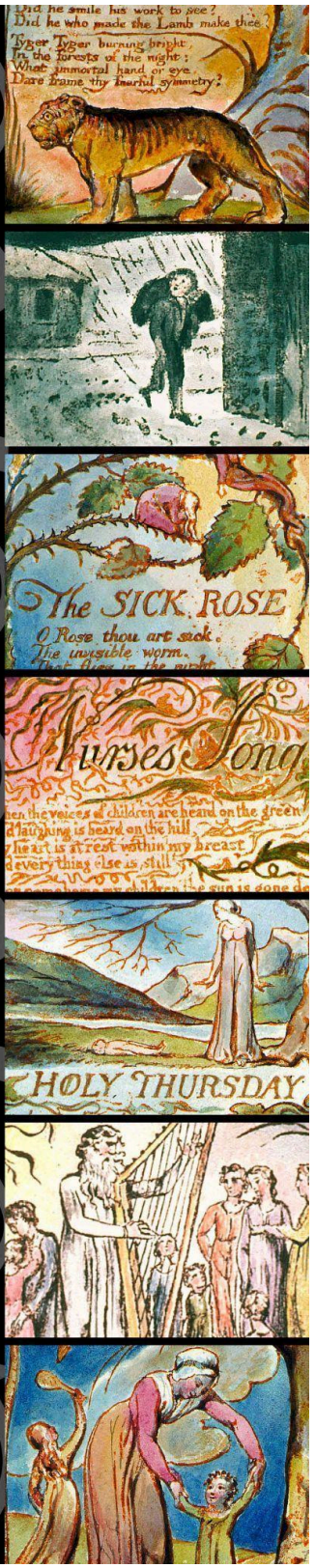
William Blake's Songs of Innocence and of Experience

Lyrics by William Blake (1757-1827)
Music by Victor Vertunni

Concerto





William Blake's *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*

Songs of Innocence and of Experience is part of a long artistic journey Victor Vertunni has pursued for over thirty years, devoted to the visionary poet, engraver, and painter William Blake. This performance integrates **three essential elements of Blake's art: word, image, and sound**, allowing the audience to encounter Blake not as a distant historical figure, but as a **voice that resonates with our present age.**

William Blake made his books by hand, giving birth to a new art he called *illuminated printing*, in which words and images flow together as a single act of imagination; where poetry quite literally becomes vision.

Yet, little is known of Blake as a singer-songwriter: not surprisingly, since no record of his melodies survives.

> "Blake's earliest poems were evidently circulated not as printed books or manuscripts, but as songs."
> — G. E. Bentley Jr., *The Stranger from Paradise*

Blake often sang his verses at London gatherings of the day's intellectuals and artists. Though he had no formal training, he possessed a remarkable musical ear and described his visions as filled with the sound of harps and celestial instruments.

In *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*, the voices of children, chimney-sweepers, dreamers, and outcasts tell their stories, embodying the 'contrary states of the human soul' that resonate with our own struggles today. This concert invites audiences to experience the transformative power of Blake's imagination: awakening empathy, reflection, and release

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Performers

Victor Vertunni – voice & guitar
Monia Giovannangeli – narration and movement

Selected Press

> "Blake's songs… beautifully played and sung."
> — Philip Pullman, author and President of the Blake Society

> "An ancient musical soul, singing from ancestral memory."
> — Wildy Haskell, *CD Review*

> "Victor's extraordinary voice truly soars and touches the heart."
> — Eleonora Bagarotti, *Libertà*

"Blake's splendid lyrics are set to music with palpable sensitivity."
— *JAM*

"A warm, evocative voice; arrangements that harness visionary resonance."
— Gianmarco Aimi, *Libertà*

"A genuinely inspired work of musical invention."
— Massimo Marchini, *Rockerilla*

"Blake was a unique visionary for his time — as Victor is for ours."
— Paul Andersen, *The Entertainment Bank*

The Artists

Victor Vertunni

Actor, singer-songwriter, musician, and public-speaking trainer.
Born in London and based in Italy since 1990, Victor studied theatre at the University of East Anglia and worked in a wide range of theatrical productions before co-founding the international company **Theatre of Eternal Values (TEV)** in 1996.
He has performed Blake's musical adaptations at festivals across Europe, the US, and Asia, including the National Portrait Gallery, London, for the *Blake 250* celebrations (2007), and the International Fringe Theatre Festival, New York (2010).
From 2008 to today he curates the **Culture of the Spirit Festival**, and his most recent stage work is *Shakespeare's Women*, in which he portrays William Shakespeare.

Monia Giovannangeli

Dancer, actress, director, choreographer, and drama therapist.
Trained at the National Academy of Dance in Rome and later in the Martha Graham technique, she continued her artistic formation with masters including Merce Cunningham.
Co-founder of TEV, she has written, directed, and performed works across Europe, America, and Asia. She is currently Artistic Director of the **Culture of the Spirit Festival** and leads theatre programs in Italy and abroad.

Links & Recordings

Website: **www.victorvertunni.com**
YouTube: https://youtu.be/RkIAQgy_F1E
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsL0rPPL0WM

Releases:
William Blake's Songs of Innocence and of Experience — Bandcamp (2011)
https://victorvertunni.bandcamp.com/album/william-blakes-songs-of-innocence-and-of-experience

Children of the Future Age: Spotify (2019)
https://open.spotify.com/album/1v1BKgBmEym8C74lMbtoiR