

NAXOS

LUTOSŁAWSKI : Twenty Polish Christmas Carols

8.555994

Assembled in 1946 from texts and melodies that had been collected during the nineteenth century, *Twenty Polish Carols* is one of Lutosławski's most substantial and most attractive vocal collections. The carols comprise a musical sequence as substantial as it is varied. Highlights include the lightly tripping rhythm of *Just after midnight*, typical of Lutosławski's folk-inspired music of the period, the undulating motion of *In a manger*, one of the most charming of all the carols, and the discreetly sensuous mood of *Jesus lovely flower*, the most extended carol of the cycle. By way of contrast, the *Five Songs* of 1957, exhibit aspects of the more experimental idiom Lutosławski had begun to evolve during the cultural 'thaw' that spread across Eastern Europe in the wake of Stalin's death in 1953.

Witold
LUTOSŁAWSKI
(1913–1994)

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| 1-20 | Twenty Polish Christmas Carols ¹³
for soprano, female choir and orchestra | 40:05 |
| 21 | Lacrimosa ¹³
for soprano, choir and orchestra | 3:37 |
| 22-26 | Five Songs ²
for female voice and 30 solo instruments | 10:39 |

Olga Pasichnyk, Soprano¹ • **Jadwiga Rappé, Alto**²
Polish Radio Chorus, Kraków³ (Włodzimierz Siedlik, Chorus Master)
Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra (Katowice)
Antoni Wit

SPONSORED BY THE POLISH MINISTRY OF CULTURE

Recorded in the Grzegorz Fitelberg Concert Hall, Katowice, from 3rd to 5th December, 2001 (Tracks 1-21) and on 15th January, 1997 (Tracks 22-26) • Producer and Engineer: Beata Jankowska
Booklet Notes: Richard Whitehouse • Publishers: Polskie Wydawnictwo Muzyczne, Kraków / Chester Music Ltd., London (Tracks 1-21) and Polskie Wydawnictwo Muzyczne, Kraków / Moeck Verlag-Celle (Tracks 22-26) • Please see the booklet for a complete track list
Cover Picture: *Winter Evening in front of a Country House, 1921* by Jozef Ryszkiewicz (1856–1925) (Private Collection / Agra Art, Warsaw, Poland / The Bridgeman Art Library))

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Playing Time
54:22

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