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NAXOS THE ENGLISH SONG SERIES • 7 BRITTEN

Britten's song cycles form a substantial and important part of his work. The *Seven Sonnets of Michelangelo* belong to the period when Britten had begun to set foreign languages in an attempt to broaden his musical horizons. It is his first work composed exclusively for Peter Pears and deals with various aspects of love. Written in August 1945, soon after Britten had returned from a tour of German concentration camps with Yehudi Menuhin, *The Holy Sonnets of John Donne* captures some of the bleak intensity of that experience. In the eight settings of Thomas Hardy, *Winter Words*, written in 1953, there is no less abundance of the musical invention and imagery found in the earlier cycles, but the textures are generally leaner and more economical.

Benjamin
BRITTEN
(1913-1976)

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|-------|--|-------|
| 1-9 | The Holy Sonnets of John Donne, Op. 35 | 23:26 |
| 10-16 | Seven Sonnets of Michelangelo, Op. 22 | 18:38 |
| 17-24 | Winter Words, Op. 52 | 22:43 |
| 25 | If it's ever Spring again | 3:00 |
| 26 | The Children and Sir Nameless | 2:44 |

Philip Langridge, Tenor • Stuart Bedford, Piano

Recorded at Blackheath Concert Halls, London, 16th - 18th December 1995 & 22nd January, 1996.
 Producer: John H West • Engineers: Mike Hatch & Geoff Miles (Floating Earth)
 First issued on Collins Classics in 1996 • MCPS • Publishers: Boosey & Hawkes
 Booklet Notes: Lloyd Moore • A complete track list can be found in the booklet
 Cover Picture: *End of the Day* by James George Bingley (1840-1920)
 (Elgin Court Designs Ltd., London, UK / Bridgeman Art Library)

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Playing Time
66:35

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 Booklet notes in English • Kommentar auf Deutsch
 Song texts included • Made in the EU
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