

CMYK

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BRITTEN • BERKELEY: Auden Songs

NAXOS

Benjamin Britten's varied output includes a number of works which set texts by W.H. Auden. Britten and Auden first met in 1935 when they were both working for the GPO Film Unit and they soon formed a highly productive creative partnership. *On This Island* was Britten's first published group of songs with piano. A number of other Auden settings from this period, including the light-hearted *Cabaret Songs*, were published after Britten's death. Lennox Berkeley came into contact with Auden's poetry via Britten whom he had met in the 1930s. His settings, including the *Five Poems op.53*, reveal him to be as sensitive and imaginative as Britten in his response to Auden's verse.

Settings of Poems by W.H. Auden

Lennox
BERKELEY
(1903-1989)

- | | | |
|-----|--|------|
| 1-5 | Five Poems, Op. 53 | 9:49 |
| 6 | Night covers up the rigid land, Op. 14 No. 2 | 2:35 |
| 7 | Lay your sleeping head, my love, Op. 14 No. 2b | 5:30 |

Benjamin
BRITTEN
(1913-1976)

- | | | |
|-------|--|-------|
| 8-12 | On This Island, Op. 11 | 13:20 |
| 13 | Fish in the unruffled lakes | 2:17 |
| 14 | Night covers up the rigid land | 2:03 |
| 15 | To lie flat on the back | 2:23 |
| 16 | The sun shines down | 2:03 |
| 17 | What's on your mind? | 1:50 |
| 18 | Underneath the abject willow | 1:46 |
| 19-22 | Cabaret Songs | 14:44 |
| 23 | When you're feeling like expressing your affection | 0:43 |
| 24 | Underneath the abject willow | 1:54 |

Della Jones, Mezzo-Soprano • Philip Langridge, Tenor • Stuart Bedford, Piano

Recorded at St Silas Church, Chalk Farm, London, September 1997 (1-18, 24); Blackheath Concert Halls, London, December 1995 (16-18); Rossllyn Hill Chapel, Hampstead, London (19-23)

First issued on Collins Classics in 1998 • World Première Recordings (1, 3-7, 16-18)

A detailed tracklist can be found in the booklet.

Producer: John H. West • Engineers: Mike Hatch, Geoff Miles • Music Notes: Lloyd Moore

Cover Image: *W.H. Auden* by Jeffrey Morgan, Mary Evans / Jeffrey Morgan Collection

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Playing Time
60:57



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