

The works on this recording cover the entire span of Britten's published output – from the *Simple Symphony* of 1934, to the string orchestral arrangement of *Lachrymae* completed in the last year of his life. Britten always retained a special affection for his childhood efforts and in the *Simple Symphony* reworked his earliest compositions making them 'more fit for general consumption'. In contrast there is a special poignancy about the works of his final three years, composed after Britten's unsuccessful heart operation. In its earthy treatment of the folk-song material, the *Suite on English Folk Tunes*, his last purely orchestral work, is at the furthest remove from the sentimentality often associated with the English pastoral tradition.

Benjamin  
**BRITTEN**  
(1913-1976)

- |              |   |              |
|--------------|---|--------------|
| <b>1-4</b>   | <b>Simple Symphony for Strings, Op. 4 (1934)</b>  | <b>15:56</b> |
| <b>5-13</b>  | <b>Temporal Variations (1936) <sup>1</sup></b><br><b>Orchestrated by Colin Matthews (1993)</b>      | <b>13:50</b> |
| <b>14-18</b> | <b>A Charm of Lullabies, Op. 41 (1947) <sup>2</sup></b><br><b>Arranged by Colin Matthews (1990)</b> | <b>13:45</b> |
| <b>19-29</b> | <b>Lachrymae, Op. 48a (1976) <sup>3</sup></b>   | <b>14:30</b> |
| <b>30-34</b> | <b>Suite on English Folk Tunes, Op. 90 (1974)</b><br><b>'A time there was ...'</b>                  | <b>13:45</b> |

**Nicholas Daniel, Oboe <sup>1</sup> • Catherine Wyn-Rogers, Mezzo-Soprano <sup>2</sup>**  
**Philip Dukes, Viola <sup>3</sup> • Northern Sinfonia • Steuart Bedford**

Recorded at All Saints Church, Gosforth, Newcastle, UK on 16th and 17th July 1998

Producer: John H. West • Engineer: Mike Hatch (Floating Earth) • Booklet Notes: Lloyd Moore

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