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BRITTEN: Simple Symphony

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)

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

Nicholas Daniel, Oboe¹ • **Catherine Wyn-Rogers, Mezzo-Soprano**²
Philip Dukes, Viola³ • **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
Originally released by Collins Classics in 1998 • Please see booklet for a complete track list
 Publishers: Oxford University Press (Tracks 1-4), Faber Music Ltd. (Tracks 5-13 and 30-34)
 and Boosey & Hawkes Ltd. (Tracks 14-29) • Tracks 5-13 and 14-18 are **World Première Recordings**
 Cover Picture: *In the Fields* by Henry John Yeend King (Bourne Gallery, Surrey / Bridgeman Art Library)

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Playing Time
71:46



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