

NAXOS

BLISS: Clarinet Quintet • String Quartet No. 2

8.557394

Arthur Bliss belongs to the generation of English composers who came to maturity in the years between the two World Wars. The composer himself described the powerful *Second String Quartet*, written in 1950, as 'the most substantial chamber work that I had attempted'. The *Clarinet Quintet* is one of Bliss's finest achievements and considered by many to be his masterpiece. The clarinet was the instrument of Bliss's brother Kennard, who had been killed in the First World War. As the quintet was the next work to be composed after *Morning Heroes*, Bliss's overtly public requiem for his beloved brother, it is possible to view it as a further expression of his loss. For sheer beauty the opening solo cantilena must rank among the most memorable in twentieth-century chamber music.

Arthur
BLISS
(1891-1975)

String Quartet No. 2	31:17	Clarinet Quintet*	27:47
1 Allegro con spirito	9:53	5 Moderato	5:30
2 Sostenuto	5:25	6 Allegro molto	7:45
3 Vivo e con brio	5:43	7 Adagietto espressivo	8:12
4 Larghetto - Allegro	10:16	8 Allegro energico	6:20

David Campbell, Clarinet*
Maggini Quartet

Laurence Jackson, Violin 1 • David Angel, Violin 2
Martin Outram, Viola • Michal Kaznowski, Cello

Recorded from 14th to 16th January 2003, at Potton Hall, Suffolk, England
Producer: Andrew Walton (K&A Productions Ltd.) • Sound Engineer: Eleanor Walton
Post-Production: Andrew Walton • Publisher: Novello and Co. Ltd. • Booklet Notes: Andrew Burn
Cover painting: *Sunset at Herne Hill through the Smoke of London, 1876*, by John Ruskin (1819-1900)
(Bridgeman Art Library / Ruskin Museum, Coniston, Cumbria, UK)

This recording has been generously supported by The Bliss Trust

The Maggini Quartet, and Eleanor and Andrew Walton wish to dedicate this CD to the memory of Alan Foster, friend and owner of Potton Hall, who sadly passed away during the recording of this disc.

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