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TIPPETT: A Child of Our Time

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Michael Tippett was one of the most gifted and most inspiring figures in twentieth-century British musical life. Tippett's oratorio and choral masterpiece, *A Child of Our Time*, written at the beginning of the second world war as an expression of 'man's inhumanity to man', has become one of his most widely known works and one which is seen to symbolise the composer's extra-musical concerns, both political and psychological. Modelled on Handel's *Messiah*, the emotional and dramatic core of the work is found in the five *Spirituals*, in which the suffering of oppressed peoples throughout history – from the Israelites in Egypt, via black American slaves, to the Jews in Nazi-controlled Europe – is given universal resonance. This unique recording was conducted by the composer himself when he was 85.

Sir Michael
TIPPETT
(1905–1998)

A Child of Our Time (1939–41)

1-8	Part One	23:41
9-25	Part Two	23:52
26-30	Part Three	21:43

Faye Robinson, Soprano • Sarah Walker, Mezzo-Soprano
Jon Garrison, Tenor • John Cheek, Bass

City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus (Simon Halsey, Chorus Director)
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (Peter Thomas, Leader)

Sir Michael Tippett

Recorded in Symphony Hall, Birmingham, UK, from 11th to 13th October, 1991
Producer and Editor: John H. West • Engineer: John Timperley • Booklet Notes: Anthony Burton
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(Mary Evans Picture Library / The Meledin Collection)

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Playing Time
69:19

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