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THE ENGLISH SONG SERIES • 12 FINZI

NAXOS

Gerald Finzi made a significant contribution to British twentieth-century song-writing, especially with his settings of Thomas Hardy, his favourite poet, whom he set more than any other. Finzi's empathy with Hardy's bleak fatalism, his sense of transience and his anger at the suffering that mankind afflicts on fellow human beings permeates all three collections on this disc. Highlights include the dramatic *I said to Love*, as the poet squares up to his adversary and forecasts that '*Mankind shall cease*', the haunting *Fear no more the heat o' the sun* with its images of the dust to which '*the golden lads and girls*' must all come, and the large-scale *Channel Firing*, arguably Finzi's most ambitious Hardy setting.

## Gerald FINZI

(1901-1956)

<b>I Said to Love, Op. 19b</b>		<b>13:34</b>	<b>Before and After Summer, Op. 16</b>		<b>32:43</b>
(Words by Thomas Hardy)			(Words by Thomas Hardy)		
1	I need not go	2:10	12	Childhood among the Ferns	3:29
2	At Middle-Field Gate in February	3:27	13	Before and after Summer	2:36
3	Two Lips	0:56	14	The Self-unseeing	2:54
4	In five-score Summers (Meditation)	1:47	15	Overlooking the River	2:38
5	For Life I had never cared greatly	2:07	16	Channel Firing	6:38
6	I Said to Love	3:06	17	In the mind's eye	1:48
<b>Let Us Garlands Bring, Op. 18</b>		<b>15:02</b>	18	The Too Short Time	3:07
(Words by Shakespeare)			19	Epeisodia	2:03
7	Come away, come away, death	3:30	20	Amabel	2:58
8	Who is Silvia?	1:36	21	He abjures Love	4:33
9	Fear no more the heat o' the Sun	5:42			
10	O Mistress Mine	1:42			
11	It was a lover and his lass	2:32			

### Roderick Williams, Baritone • Iain Burnside, Piano

Recorded at Potton Hall, Suffolk, England 12-14th August 2004  
 Producer: Andrew Walton (K&A Productions Ltd.) • Engineer: Eleanor Thomason (K&A Productions)  
 This recording was recorded and edited at 24bit resolution.  
 Post Production: Andrew Walton (K&A Productions Ltd.) • Booklet Notes: Andrew Burn  
 Publishers: Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd.  
 Cover Image: *July* by Charles Earle (1832-1893)  
 [Bridgeman Art Library / Chris Beetles Ltd., London, UK]

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Playing Time  
61:19

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 Booklet notes in English • Kommentar auf Deutsch  
 Song texts may be accessed at  
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