

A year before his death in 1948, Richard Strauss composed his masterpiece, *Four Last Songs*, expressing a calm acceptance of the inevitability of his own death. Meditations on life, death, and the transition into 'the magic circle of the night', the songs among the most haunting music ever written. In contrast the six *Brentano-Lieder* are playful, incandescent and virtuosic settings of Clemens Brentano's deeply romantic poems.

Richard
STRAUSS
(1864–1949)

Vier letzte Lieder (Four Last Songs), Op. posth., TrV 296 22:54

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|-------------|------|----------------------|------|
| ① Frühling | 3:43 | ③ Beim Schlafengehen | 5:58 |
| ② September | 5:10 | ④ Im Abendrot | 8:04 |

Brentano-Lieder, Op. 68, TrV 235 28:40

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|------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|
| ⑤ An die Nacht | 3:20 | ⑧ Als mir dein Lied erklang | 4:08 |
| ⑥ Ich wollt' ein Sträußlein binden | 3:36 | ⑨ Amor! | 3:39 |
| ⑦ Säusle, liebe Myrte! | 5:35 | ⑩ Lied der Frauen | 8:22 |

Ariadne auf Naxos, Op. 60, TrV 228a (excerpts) 8:47

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|-----------------------|------|--------------------------|------|
| ⑪ The Opera: Overture | 3:16 | ⑫ The Opera: Dance Scene | 5:30 |
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Ricarda Merbeth, Soprano
Weimar Staatskapelle • Michael Halász

Recorded in the Weimarahalle, Weimar, Germany, from 28th to 30th August, 2006
 Producer and Editor: Eckhard Glauche • Engineer: Christian Feldgen • Booklet Notes: Keith Anderson
 Publishers: Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd. (①–④); Adolph Fürstner / Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd. (⑤–⑫) • Cover Photograph: *Lost Love* by Sascha Burkard (Dreamstime Images)

8.570283

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 Playing Time
60:21


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