

The English composer John Gardner has been largely neglected, in spite of his prolific output. His career began with great promise before the war, to be resumed gradually afterwards, but seldom with the success he seemed to deserve. This recording should help to re-establish his reputation with two relatively early works written in the post-war years, the *Symphony No. 1*, “a superbly crafted work... by a subtle and imaginative orchestrator” (Paul Conway/Musicweb-International) and the *Piano Concerto No. 1*, both premièred by Barbirolli. The *Piano Concerto* here receives only its third performance. *Midsummer Ale* is a classic piece of British light music with delightfully catchy melodies.

WORLD PREMIERE
RECORDINGS

John
GARDNER
(b.1917)



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|---|---|--------------|
| 1 | Overture: Midsummer Ale, Op. 73 | 5:28 |
| | Piano Concerto No. 1 in B flat major, Op. 34 | 25:39 |
| 2 | I Allegro con brio | 9:04 |
| 3 | II Tema con Variazioni | 9:52 |
| 4 | III Finale: Rondo | 6:43 |
| | Symphony No. 1 in D minor, Op. 2 | 40:47 |
| 5 | I Lento e Grave | 11:57 |
| 6 | II Scherzo-Allegro | 6:22 |
| 7 | III Lento | 11:56 |
| 8 | IV Finale: Allegro molto | 10:32 |

Peter Donohoe, Piano
Royal Scottish National Orchestra • David Lloyd-Jones

Recorded at Henry Wood Hall, Glasgow, Scotland, 28-30 November, 2006
 Producer and Editor: Andrew Walton • Engineer: Phil Rowlands
 Publisher: Oxford University Press • Booklet Notes: Chris Gardner
 Cover Painting: *The Friars, Aylesford* (Maidstone) by Albert Goodwin (1845-1932)
 (Maidstone Museum and Art Gallery, Kent, UK/Bridgeman Art Library, London)

NAXOS

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Playing Time
71:54



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