

NAXOS

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8.570414

Playing Time
64:03

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Gerald Finzi made an unrivalled contribution to British twentieth-century song-writing, especially in his settings of Thomas Hardy, his favourite poet. This third and final volume of Finzi songs includes two Hardy settings, *A Young Man's Exhortation* and *Till Earth Outwears*, which share the poet's preoccupation with the 'passing preciousness of dreams', the transience of life and death itself. The posthumously published *Oh Fair to see* draws on various authors, from Christina Rossetti to Blunden and Bridges. Volumes 1 and 2 of the complete Finzi songs with piano are available on Naxos 8.557644 and 8.557963.

Gerald FINZI

(1901-1956)

A Young Man's Exhortation, Op. 14

(Words by Thomas Hardy) Part I:

- 1 A Young Man's Exhortation 3:08
 2 Ditty 3:28
 3 Budmouth Dears 1:58
 4 Her Temple 2:08
 5 The Comet at Yell'ham 3:37

Part II:

- 6 Shortening Days 2:51
 7 The Sigh 3:41
 8 Former Beauties 3:06
 9 Transformations 1:42
 10 The Dance continued 3:38

Till Earth Outwears, Op. 19a

(Words by Thomas Hardy)

- 11 Let me enjoy the Earth 2:29
 12 In years defaced 3:38

- 13 The Market-Girl 1:52
 14 I look into my Glass 2:13
 15 It never looks like summer 1:17
 16 At a Lunar Eclipse 3:51
 17 Life laughs onwards 2:09

Oh Fair to See, Op. 13b

- 18 I say 'I'll seek her side'
 (Words by Thomas Hardy) 2:46
 19 Oh fair to see (Christina Rossetti) 1:36
 20 As I lay in the early sun
 (Words by Edward Shanks) 1:50
 21 Only the wanderer (Ivor Gurney) 1:54
 22 To Joy (Words by Edmund Blunden) 3:27
 23 Harvest
 (Words by Edmund Blunden) 4:19
 24 Since we loved
 (Words by Robert Bridges) 1:26

John Mark Ainsley, Tenor • Iain Burnside, Piano

Recorded at Potton Hall, Westleton, Suffolk, England, on 27th and 28th November, 2006

Producer and Engineer: Michael Ponder • Booklet Notes: Andrew Burn

Publishers: Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd.

Cover Painting: *Ducks* by Lindsay MacArthur (fl.c.1890-1930)

(Private Collection/Bridgeman Art Library)