

NAXOS

8.570417

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66:40

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Quintessentially Finzi, the tender yet radiant *Dies natalis*, a setting of texts by the 17th-century poet Thomas Traherne, depicts both the first sensations of a child as it enters the world, and life's tarnishing experience of the innocence of childhood. In *Farewell to Arms*, a further example of Finzi's enthusiasm for 17th-century poets, the steady but inevitable tramp of time, symbolized by the measured bass and the tenor's sad, arching melody, becomes a poignant symbol for the brevity of life as expressed in lines such as 'O time too swift, O swiftness never ceasing'. Finzi knew all too well that 'Beauty, strength, youth are flowers but fading seen'.

Gerald  
**FINZI**  
 (1901–1956)

<b>Dies natalis *</b>	<b>26:16</b>	<b>Two Sonnets for Tenor and Orchestra *</b>	<b>7:37</b>
1 <b>I. Intrada</b>	<b>5:36</b>	8 <b>I. When I consider</b>	<b>4:46</b>
2 <b>II. Rhapsody</b>	<b>7:32</b>	9 <b>II. How soon hath Time</b>	<b>2:51</b>
3 <b>III. The Rapture</b>	<b>4:01</b>	10 <b>Nocturne (New Year Music)</b>	<b>9:39</b>
4 <b>IV. Wonder</b>	<b>4:28</b>	<b>Farewell to Arms *</b>	<b>9:01</b>
5 <b>V. The Salutation</b>	<b>4:39</b>	11 <b>I. Introduction</b>	<b>3:56</b>
6 <b>Prelude for String Orchestra</b>	<b>4:35</b>	12 <b>II. Aria</b>	<b>5:05</b>
7 <b>The Fall of the Leaf (Elegy)</b> (compl. Howard Ferguson)	<b>9:34</b>		



**James Gilchrist, Tenor \***  
**Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra**  
 (Leader: Duncan Riddell)  
**David Hill**



This recording was made possible by the support of the Finzi Trust.

Recorded in The Concert Hall, Lighthouse, Poole, UK, on 5th and 6th June, 2007

Producer and Editor: Andrew Walton (K&A Productions Ltd.) • Engineer: Phil Rowlands

Booklet Notes: Andrew Burn • Publisher: Boosey and Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd.

Cover Photograph: *Rest on the Flight into Egypt* by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (1571–1610)  
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