

Arthur Bliss belongs to the generation of English composers who came to maturity in the years between the two World Wars. Bliss wrote his *String Quartet in A major* in 1915, when serving in France during the Great War. Lady Elgar found it "full of eager life and exhilarating energy and hope". The work later published as *String Quartet No.1 in B flat major*, was written during his stay in America. It shows the composer's command of the medium in idiomatic string-writing and is immediately attractive yet deeply felt. *Conversations*, written in Paris immediately after the war, is both a playful homage to the group of young French composers loosely banded together as *Les Six*, as well as a contemporary reaction to the horrors of the preceding decade.

Arthur BLISS (1891-1975)

String Quartet No. 1 in B flat major 28:34

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|---|-------------------------------------|------|
| 1 | Andante maestoso - Allegro con brio | 9:57 |
| 2 | Allegretto grazioso | 5:46 |
| 3 | Sostenuto | 5:53 |
| 4 | Vivace | 6:49 |

Conversations for Flute, Oboe, Violin, Viola and Cello* 15:09

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|---|--|------|
| 5 | No. 1 The Committee Meeting: Moderato | 1:13 |
| 6 | No. 2 In the Wood: Adagio | 3:24 |
| 7 | No. 3 In the Ballroom: Scherzando | 2:33 |
| 8 | No. 4 Soliloquy: Andante tranquillo e molto rubato | 2:39 |
| 9 | No. 5 In the Tube at Oxford Circus: Allegro energico | 5:00 |

String Quartet in A major (c. 1915) 20:17

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|----|---------------------------|------|
| 10 | Moderato ma tranquillo | 7:01 |
| 11 | Andante sostenuto | 6:37 |
| 12 | Allegro vivace con grazia | 6:30 |

Maggini Quartet

*Nicholas Daniel, Oboe / Cor Anglais • *Michael Cox, Flute / Alto Flute

This recording has been recorded and edited at 24 bit resolution.
Recorded at Pottton Hall, Suffolk, England, 19th-21st December 2000
Publishers: Novello (1-4), J. Curwen and Sons (5-9)

Producer: Andrew Walton (K&A Productions Ltd.) • Engineer: Eleanor Thomason
Post Production: Andrew Walton, Emma Stocker • Booklet Notes: Keith Anderson
Cover Image: *A Path in the Wood* by Edward Bently (d. 1882)

Bridgeman Art Library / Mallet and Son Antiques Ltd. London, U.K.
This recording has been generously supported by The Bliss Trust



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Playing Time
64:01



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