

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

|   |                                     |       |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | Andante maestoso - Allegro con brio | 28:34 |
| 2 | Allegretto grazioso                 | 9:57  |
| 3 | Sostenuto                           | 5:46  |
| 4 | Vivace                              | 5:53  |

### Conversations for Flute, Oboe, Violin, Viola and Cello\*

|   |  |       |
|---|--|-------|
| 5 | No. 1 The Committee Meeting: Moderato                | 15:09 |
| 6 | No. 2 In the Wood: Adagio                            | 1:13  |
| 7 | No. 3 In the Ballroom: Scherzando                    | 3:24  |
| 8 | No. 4 Soliloquy: Andante tranquillo e molto rubato   | 2:33  |
| 9 | No. 5 In the Tube at Oxford Circus: Allegro energico | 2:39  |

### String Quartet in A major (c. 1915)

|    |                           |       |
|----|---------------------------|-------|
| 10 | Moderato ma tranquillo    | 20:17 |
| 11 | Andante sostenuto         | 7:01  |
| 12 | Allegro vivace con grazia | 6:37  |

### 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 Potton Hall, Suffolk, England, 19th-21st December 2000

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Playing Time  
64:01



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