

Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* started life as music for an educational film, designed to acquaint young people with the character of the various instruments and instrumental choirs that make up the modern orchestra. The work is a series of variations each spotlighting the individual instruments and each with a different character – some tender, some slightly sardonic, some mysterious, some straightforwardly humorous, all charged with great originality and wit. Britten's *Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge* were written as a homage to his teacher. Based on Bridge's *Three Idylls for String Quartet* (Naxos 8.553718), they proved immediately popular, launching Britten's international career and securing his place in British twentieth-century music.

Benjamin
BRITTEN
(1913-1976)

- | | | |
|------------------|---|--------------|
| [1] | Occasional Overture (1946) | 7:27 |
| [2]-[12] | Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge, Op. 10 * | 25:54 |
| [13]-[15] | Prelude and Fugue for 18-part String Orchestra, Op. 29 * | 9:49 |
| [16]-[30] | The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra, Op. 34 | 16:39 |
| | 'Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Henry Purcell' | |

English Chamber Orchestra *
London Symphony Orchestra
Steuart Bedford

Recorded in All Saints Church, East Finchley in April 1992 (Tracks 2-15)
and the Barbican Centre, London on 23rd and 25th of April, 1991 (Tracks 1 and 16-30)
Producer: John H. West • Engineers: Mark Edwards (Tracks 2-15) & John Timperley (Tracks 1 and 16-30)
Booklet Notes: Keith Anderson • **Originally released by Collins Classics in 1992**
Publishers: Faber Music Ltd. (Track 1) and Boosey and Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd. (Tracks 2-30)
Please see the booklet for a detailed track list • Cover Picture: *Conductor and Musicians Playing Drums and a Cello* by Jo McChesney (Digital Vision / Getty Images Inc.)

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Playing Time
59:50



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