

Benjamin Britten's varied output includes a number of works which set texts by W.H. Auden. Britten and Auden first met in 1935 when they were both working for the GPO Film Unit and they soon formed a highly productive creative partnership. *On This Island* was Britten's first published group of songs with piano. A number of other Auden settings from this period, including the light-hearted *Cabaret Songs*, were published after Britten's death. Lennox Berkeley came into contact with Auden's poetry via Britten whom he had met in the 1930s. His settings, including the *Five Poems op.53*, reveal him to be as sensitive and imaginative as Britten in his response to Auden's verse.

## Settings of Poems by W.H. Auden

Lennox  
**BERKELEY**  
(1903-1989)

- |     |  |      |
|-----|--|------|
| 1-5 | Five Poems, Op. 53                             | 9:49 |
| 6   | Night covers up the rigid land, Op. 14 No. 2   | 2:35 |
| 7   | Lay your sleeping head, my love, Op. 14 No. 2b | 5:30 |

Benjamin  
**BRITTEN**  
(1913-1976)

- |       |  |       |
|-------|--|-------|
| 8-12  | On This Island, Op. 11                             | 13:20 |
| 13    | Fish in the unruffled lakes                        | 2:17  |
| 14    | Night covers up the rigid land                     | 2:03  |
| 15    | To lie flat on the back                            | 2:23  |
| 16    | The sun shines down                                | 2:03  |
| 17    | What's on your mind?                               | 1:50  |
| 18    | Underneath the abject willow                       | 1:46  |
| 19-22 | Cabaret Songs                                      | 14:44 |
| 23    | When you're feeling like expressing your affection | 0:43  |
| 24    | Underneath the abject willow                       | 1:54  |

Della Jones, Mezzo-Soprano • Philip Langridge, Tenor • Stuart Bedford, Piano

Recorded at St Silas Church, Chalk Farm, London, September 1997 (1-18, 24); Blackheath Concert Halls, London, December 1995 (16-18); Rosslyn Hill Chapel, Hampstead, London (19-23)

First issued on Collins Classics in 1998 • World Première Recordings (1, 3-7, 16-18)

A detailed tracklist can be found in the booklet.

Producer: John H. West • Engineers: Mike Hatch, Geoff Miles • Music Notes: Lloyd Moore

Cover Image: *W.H. Auden* by Jeffrey Morgan, Mary Evans / Jeffrey Morgan Collection

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Playing Time  
60:57



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