

This third release in the Naxos British Piano Concertos series brings together a fascinating collection of piano concertos by four very diverse composers written in the middle decades of the last century. The *First Piano Concerto* by Alec Rowley has a breezy, open-air freshness about it, with the occasional hint of Delius and Britten. The *Concertino for Piano and Strings* by Christian Darnton, the least known composer represented here, is couched in a spiky neo-classical idiom. Roberto Gerhard's glittering *Piano Concerto* combines serial techniques with elements drawn from Spanish folk music. Howard Ferguson's lyrical *Concerto for Piano and strings*, at the heart of which lies a melancholy theme with six variations, is classical in conception and scale.

Alec ROWLEY (1892-1958)

Concerto in D major for Piano, Strings and Percussion, Op. 49 (Compl. 1938) 15:10

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|------|
| 1 | Allegro ritmico | 4:26 |
| 2 | Andante naïf | 3:12 |
| 3 | Allegro alla Burlesco | 7:32 |

Christian DARNTON (1905-1981)

Concertino in C major for Piano and String Orchestra (1948) 16:35

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|---|-------------------------|------|
| 4 | Allegro molto moderato | 6:15 |
| 5 | Andante | 5:50 |
| 6 | Presto con disinvoltura | 4:30 |

Roberto GERHARD (1896-1970)

Concerto for Piano and Strings (1961) 22:17

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|---|---------------------|-------|
| 7 | Tiento: Allegro | 6:11 |
| 8 | Diferencias: Adagio | 10:09 |
| 9 | Folia: Molto mosso | 5:57 |

Howard FERGUSON (1908-1999)

Concerto for Piano and String Orchestra, Op. 12 (1951) 24:10

- | | | |
|----|---|-------|
| 10 | Allegro | 10:34 |
| 11 | Theme and Variations: (Mesto – L'istesso tempo –
Più mosso – Allegro – Misterioso – Tempo 1 – Solenne) | 6:55 |
| 12 | Allegro gioviale | 6:41 |

Peter Donohoe, Piano/Conductor • Northern Sinfonia

Recorded at the Jubilee Hall, Gosforth, UK, 25th to 27th November 2003

Producer & Sound Engineer: Tim Handley • Music Notes: Andrew Burn

Publishers: Rowley: Peters Edition Ltd. • Darnton: Alfred Lengnick and Co. Ltd.

Gerhard: Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd. (c. 1970) • Ferguson: Hawkes and Son (London) Ltd. (c. 1952)

Cover Image: *The Sower of the Systems* by George Frederick Watts (1817-1904)
[www.bridgeman.co.uk / Trustees of the Watts Gallery, Compton, Surrey, UK]



DDD

8.557290

Playing Time

78:12



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