

Peter Maxwell Davies is universally acknowledged as one of the foremost composers of our time, and is currently Master of the Queen's Music. His musical idiom has been described by *The New York Times* as a combination of 'medieval mysticism, modernist rigour and happy accessibility'. This fifth and final instalment of Maxwell Davies's 10-quartet cycle commissioned by Naxos opens with *Quartet No. 9*, dedicated to Dame Kathleen Ollerenshaw, mathematician extraordinary, and sometime Lord Mayor of Manchester, both of which attributes have influenced the content of the work. The composer has written of *Quartet No. 10*, 'in no way must this be a last quartet. I needed to leave the door open: I had enjoyed writing the *Naxos Quartets* so much, and perhaps even learned a thing or two, that more could, in theory, eventually flourish'.

PETER MAXWELL DAVIES (b. 1934)

Naxos Quartets Nos. 9 and 10

Naxos Quartet No. 9 ¹ 36:56

- 1** I. Allegro 11:33
- 2** II. Largo flessibile 10:42
- 3** III. Presto 3:04
- 4** IV. Lento 4:40
- 5** V. Alla marcia 1:42
- 6** VI. Allegro 5:15

Naxos Quartet No. 10 ² 26:58

- 7** I. Broken Reel – Allegro 4:55
- 8** II. Slow Air and Rant – Adagio non troppo 3:30
- 9** III. Passamezzo Farewell – Adagio flessibile 9:55
- 10** IV. Deil Stick da Minister – Allegro 2:38
- 11** V. Hornpipe Unfinished – Allegro moderato 6:00

Maggini Quartet

Laurence Jackson, Violin 1 ¹ • Lorraine McAslan, Violin 1 ²

David Angel, Violin 2

Martin Outram, Viola • Michal Kaznowski, Cello

Recorded at Potton Hall, Westleton, Suffolk, England, on 30th and 31st January (tracks 7-11),
and on 2nd and 3rd June, 2008 (tracks 1-6)

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NAXOS

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Playing Time
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