

Although Martinů is known for a number of significant choral works, including his oratorio *The Epic of Gilgamesh* [Naxos 8.555138], relatively little attention is given to his vocal music. Songs with piano, many of them still unpublished or only made available in print recently, make up a fair proportion of his output. This disc features a selection of songs written during the 1930s and early 1940s, a period in which Martinů moved away from French influences towards a musical language rooted in folklore from his native Bohemia and other areas of Central Europe. Several of the songs on this disc are world première recordings.



MARTINŮ

(1890-1959)

Songs

1	2	Deux chansons [Two Songs] (1932)	7:19
3		Trois mélodies [Three Songs] (1930)*	0:53
4		Vocalise-Etude (1930)*	1:10
5	6	Dvě balady [Two Ballads to Folk Texts] (1932)*	6:31
7	10	Čtyři písň [Four Songs to Folk Texts] (1940)	5:39
11		Polka for piano from the ballet <i>Špalíček</i> (1932)	2:13
12	19	Nový Špalíček [New Anthology] (1942)	10:56
20		Waltz for piano from the ballet <i>Špalíček</i> (1932)	6:05
21	22	Three Christmas Songs (1929)*	2:46
23	26	Four Children's Songs and Nursery Rhymes*	1:17
27		Koleda milostná [Love Carol to a Folk Text] (1937)	0:53
28		Přání maminec [A Wish for a Mother]*	1:16
29	30	Songs from the <i>Hry o Marii</i> [The Miracles of Mary] (1934)	6:42

*World première recordings

Olga Černá, Mezzo-soprano • Jitka Čechová, Piano

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Producer: Tomáš Stavel • Engineers: Václav Vlk and Jaroslav Lejčko

Booklet notes: Richard Whitehouse • Sung texts translated by Geoffrey Chew

Cover image: *Peach Tree in Bloom* by Vincent van Gogh (1853-90) (akg-images / Electa)

NAXOS

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Playing Time
53:40



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