

Volume 2 of the Naxos Robert Craft Schoenberg Collection features the *Concerto for String Quartet and Orchestra after Handel*, a work so freely transcribed and developed that it should be counted among Schoenberg's own compositions. Arguably one of his most high-spirited, tender and tuneful works, it is also one of the most demanding for the solo instruments of a quartet since Beethoven's *Great Fugue*. For the first performance of *The Book of the Hanging Gardens*, a setting for mezzo-soprano and piano to texts by Stefan George (1868-1933), Schoenberg himself wrote: "I have for the first time succeeded in approaching an ideal of expression and form which has been in my mind for years".

Arnold
SCHOENBERG
 (1874-1951)

**Concerto for String Quartet and
 Orchestra in B flat**

20:36

- ① **Largo-Allegro** 5:07
 ② **Largo** 3:10
 ③ **Allegretto grazioso** 6:35
 ④ **Hornpipe** 5:44

Suite for Piano, Op. 25

13:17

- ⑤ **Präludium** 1:00
 ⑥ **Gavotte-Musette-Gavotte** 3:09
 ⑦ **Intermezzo** 3:11

⑧ **Menuett; Trio; Menuett da capo** 3:22

⑨ **Gigue** 2:35

⑩ **Lied der Waldtaube***
from Gurre-Lieder 12:56

⑪-⑫ **The Book of the Hanging
 Gardens, Op. 15*** 26:38

⑬ **A Conversation with
 Arnold Schoenberg** 6:31

Christopher Oldfather, Piano • Jennifer Lane, Mezzo-Soprano*
Fred Sherry String Quartet • Twentieth Century Classics Ensemble
Robert Craft

Full recording details can be found on page 2 of the booklet

Booklet Notes: Robert Craft

Cover Picture: *Destination* by Ulrich Osterloh (www.osterlohart.de) (courtesy of the artist)

The text of *Lied der Waldtaube* can be found at www.naxos.com/libretti/waldtaube

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