

Sir Arthur Bliss, Master of the Queen's Music from 1953, was one of the leading British composers of his generation. The sparkling *Mélée Fantasque* (1921), which the composer considered to be his first ballet score, shows the influence of Stravinsky and Dyagilev's Ballets Russes. *Checkmate* (1937), a collaboration with the great choreographer, Ninette de Valois, is a masterpiece of English ballet, full of striking ideas and colourful effects. This disc offers a rare opportunity to hear the complete ballet, which remains in the repertoire to this day.

Arthur
BLISS
(1891-1975)

1	Mélée Fantasque	12:00
Checkmate: Ballet in One Scene with a Prologue		53:03
2	Prologue – The Players: Moderato maestoso	5:46
3	Dance of the Red Pawns: Allegro spirito scherzando	2:25
4	Dance of the Four Knights: Allegro moderato sempre robustamente	3:49
5	Entry of the Black Queen: L'istesso tempo	5:31
6	The Red Knight's Mazurka: Moderato giojosamente	3:38
7	Ceremony of the Red Bishops: Largamente (misticamente)	2:12
8	Entry of the Red Castles: Allegro molto deciso	2:24
9	Entry of the Red King and Queen: Grave	1:46
10	The Attack: Allegro impetuoso e brillante	7:03
11	The Duel: Maestoso moderato e molto appassionato	8:26
12	The Black Queen Dances: Allegretto dispettoso	3:42
13	Finale – Checkmate: Andante poco sostenuto – Allegro vivace e feroce	6:20

Royal Scottish National Orchestra • David Lloyd-Jones

Recorded at Henry Wood Hall, Glasgow, from 9th to 10th August, 2004

Producer: Tim Handley • Sound Engineer: Phil Rowlands

Editor: Phil Rowlands • Publisher: Novello & Co Ltd • Booklet Notes: Andrew Burn
Cover image: Detail from the cover page of the piano score of *Checkmate* (courtesy of Lady Bliss)

This recording has been generously supported by The Bliss Trust



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8.557641

Playing Time
65:03



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