

Playing
Time:
52:01

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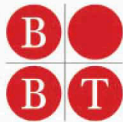
John
ADAMS
(b. 1947)

Complete Piano Music

- 1 Phrygian Gates (1977-78) 24:37**
- 2 American Berserk (2001) 6:04**
- 3 China Gates (1977) 5:15**
- 4 Hallelujah Junction* (1996) 16:05**

Ralph van Raat, Piano

*** with Maarten van Veen, Piano**



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Producer and engineer: Michael Ponder

Booklet notes: Ralph van Raat

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American flag, folk artist, 1880s.



AMERICAN CLASSICS

John Adams' vast and varied output has earned him a wide audience, uncommon among contemporary classical composers. The works on this disc span his entire career to date, and illustrate his many different styles of writing for the piano. *Phrygian Gates* and *China Gates* – “gate” here referring to a type of electronic switch – could be regarded as his first “minimal” works, but are more tonal and expressive than the music of his contemporaries such as Steve Reich and Philip Glass. As a teenager Adams had played clarinet in his father's marching band, and his *Hallelujah Junction* reflects his love of jazz and popular music. His most recent piano work, *American Berserk*, recalls the fractured boogie-woogie style of Conlon Nancarrow, and has been described by the composer as a “short, manic, bipolar scherzo”.

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