

Playing  
Time:  
**68:56**

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**Morten LAURIDSEN**  
(b. 1943)

**Choral Works**

- |              |  |              |
|--------------|--|--------------|
| <b>1</b>     | <b>O nata lux</b><br>from <i>Lux aeterna</i> (1997)                  | <b>5:03</b>  |
| <b>2-7</b>   | <b>Madrigali</b><br>Six 'Fire Songs' on Italian<br>Renaissance poems | <b>21:39</b> |
| <b>8-11</b>  | <b>Les Chansons des Roses *</b><br>(Rainer Maria Rilke)              | <b>16:58</b> |
| <b>12-16</b> | <b>Mid-Winter Songs *</b><br>(on poems by Robert Graves)             | <b>19:02</b> |
| <b>17</b>    | <b>O magnum mysterium</b>  | <b>5:52</b>  |

**Elora Festival Singers**  
\* **Leslie De'Ath, piano**  
**Noel Edison**

Full track details may be found on page 2 of the booklet. Includes sung texts and translations. With the exception of the texts for tracks 12–16, these may also be accessed at [www.naxos.com/libretti/559304.htm](http://www.naxos.com/libretti/559304.htm)

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American flag, folk artist, 1880s



AMERICAN CLASSICS

Morten Lauridsen is America's pre-eminent composer of choral music. Characterized by long, arching and highly expressive lines, his works are enjoyed by performers and audiences worldwide. *O nata lux*, perhaps Lauridsen's most popular work, is a serene evocation of heavenly light, while the searingly intense and technically demanding *Madrigali* inhabit a more feverish and earthy realm. The refined *Les Chansons des Roses* employ a design reminiscent of the formal gardens, filled with roses, found in the grounds of the great French châteaux. The unforgettable final movement is the now-famous *Dirait-on*. The *Mid-Winter Songs* for chorus and piano are a stunning example of compositional virtuosity. *O magnum mysterium*, for a cappella chorus, is a setting of a Christmas text that has inspired composers from Victoria to Poulenc.

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