

Playing
Time:
56:19

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8.559698



Paul
MORAVEC
(b. 1957)

Useful Knowledge

- [1]-[5]** Vita Brevis (version for soprano and piano trio) (2009) ¹ **14:52**
[6]-[12] Characteristics (1996) ² **22:35**
[13] Useful Knowledge:
 A Franklin Fantasy (2006) ³ **18:51**

WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS

Amy Burton, Soprano ¹

Trio Solisti ¹

Maria Bachmann, Violin • Alexis Pia Gerlach, Cello
Jon Klibonoff, Piano

Simon Mulligan, Piano ²

Randall Scarlata, Baritone ³

La Fenice ³

Peggy Pearson, Oboe • Catherine Cho, Violin
Mark Holloway, Viola

Marcy Rosen, Cello • Diane Walsh, Piano

Cecilia Brauer, Glass harmonica ³

This recording was made possible by financial support from Adelphi University and the Institute for Advanced Study.

A detailed track list and recording details can be found inside the booklet.

Available sung texts can be accessed at
www.naxos.com/libretti/559698.htm

Publisher: Subito Music Corporation

Cover painting: *Benjamin Franklin* by David Martin (1737-1797)
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AMERICAN CLASSICS

This program of musical portraits by Pulitzer Prize-winner Paul Moravec encompasses a song cycle, a cantata and a solo piano work. *Vita Brevis* is a beautiful cycle of five songs that chart a birth-to-death journey, whereas *Characteristics* enshrines tributes from the composer to seven musical friends, three pianists, two composers, a violinist and a countertenor, in the form of pithy piano commentaries. Moravec's tribute to Benjamin Franklin, *Useful Knowledge*, is a soliloquy cum fantasy that celebrates Franklin's pioneering rationality with music of dextrous imagination.

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