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Playing Time  
60:09

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Alan Rawsthorne's three published String Quartets mark the progression of style and language at salient points during his compositional career. *String Quartet No. 1* is an early example of Rawsthorne's partiality for variation form. *String Quartet No. 2* is more succinct and precise in expression and form, while the many-layered *String Quartet No. 3*, an austere work of unremitting intensity, is characteristic of the final period of Rawsthorne's creative output.

# Alan RAWSTHORNE

(1905-1971)

## String Quartets • Theme and Variations for Two Violins

### Theme and Variations for Two Violins (1937)

- |           |                           |             |
|-----------|---------------------------|-------------|
| <b>1</b>  | Theme (Allegro)           | <b>0:46</b> |
| <b>2</b>  | Variation 1: Capriccietto | <b>0:48</b> |
| <b>3</b>  | Variation 2: Siciliano    | <b>2:04</b> |
| <b>4</b>  | Variation 3: Cancrizzante | <b>0:53</b> |
| <b>5</b>  | Variation 4: Rhapsodia    | <b>2:34</b> |
| <b>6</b>  | Variation 5: Notturmo     | <b>3:16</b> |
| <b>7</b>  | Variation 6: Scherzetto   | <b>0:39</b> |
| <b>8</b>  | Variation 7: Ostinato     | <b>1:10</b> |
| <b>9</b>  | Variation 8: Canone       | <b>0:30</b> |
| <b>10</b> | Variation 9: Fantasia     | <b>2:49</b> |

### String Quartet No. 1 (Theme and Variations) (1939) 10:01

- |           |                                                   |             |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>11</b> | Theme: Tempo giusto,<br>espressivo e poco agitato | <b>1:00</b> |
| <b>12</b> | Variation 1: L'istesso tempo                      | <b>0:43</b> |
| <b>13</b> | Variation 2: Andante<br>appassionato              | <b>1:40</b> |

- |           |                                         |             |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>14</b> | Variation 3: Allegro                    | <b>1:15</b> |
| <b>15</b> | Variation 4: Adagio,<br>poco misterioso | <b>2:38</b> |
| <b>16</b> | Variation 5: Allegro preciso            | <b>1:06</b> |
| <b>17</b> | Variation 6: Prestissimo                | <b>1:38</b> |

### String Quartet No. 2 (1954) 17:37

- |           |                                                      |             |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>18</b> | Maestoso e pesante –<br>Allegretto – Allegro agitato | <b>4:10</b> |
| <b>19</b> | Allegro appassionato<br>sempre molto rubato          | <b>4:16</b> |
| <b>20</b> | Allegretto                                           | <b>3:29</b> |
| <b>21</b> | Theme, Three Variations<br>and Coda                  | <b>5:41</b> |

### String Quartet No. 3 (1965) 17:02

- |           |                                                   |             |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>22</b> | Allegro deciso – Allegretto –<br>Allegro deciso – | <b>7:41</b> |
| <b>23</b> | Andante (Alla ciaccona)                           | <b>5:38</b> |
| <b>24</b> | Molto vivace                                      | <b>3:43</b> |

## Maggini Quartet

*This recording was made with generous support from the Rawsthorne Trust*

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