

The British composer Judith Bingham was for several years a member of the BBC Singers and before that the Symphony Chorus, so it is not surprising that choral music makes up a major part of her compositional output. *Salt in the Blood* is a ghost story based on the legend of a fatal quarrel between two Norwegian sailors over who was the better dancer. Four traditional sea shanties form the backbone of the music, and its text draws from fragments of ships' log books, the Beaufort Scale, and Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. A 2004 BBC Proms commission, *The Secret Garden* is a magical and intriguing piece in which Bingham imagines what the Garden of Eden was like after Adam and Eve's expulsion, and whose central image is the extraordinary synergy that exists between plants and insects. In 2006 Judith Bingham won the British Composer Award for choral music.



Judith
BINGHAM
(b. 1952)



Choral Music

- | | | |
|----------|---|--------------|
| 1 | Salt in the Blood (1995) ¹ | 20:40 |
| 2 | The Darkness Is No Darkness – Segue –
S.S. Wesley [1810-76]: Thou Wilt Keep Him
in Perfect Peace (1993) ² | 8:05 |
| 3 | First Light (2001) ³ | 10:22 |
| 4 | The Snows Descend (1997) ⁴ | 6:45 |
| 5 | The Secret Garden (2004) ⁵ | 21:58 |

BBC Symphony Chorus 1, 2, 3, 5

Thomas Trotter, Organ 2, 5 • **Fine Arts Brass** 1, 3, 4

Stephen Jackson

Tracks 1-4 recorded at the BBC's Maida Vale Studios, London, on 7th and 8th May, 2005

Producer: Ann McKay • Engineer: Neil Pemberton

Track 5 recorded live at the BBC Proms, Royal Albert Hall, London, on 21st August, 2004

Producer: Ann McKay • Engineer: Rebecca Jaworska

Publisher: Maecenas Music Ltd. • S.S. Wesley published by Novello & Co. Ltd.

Cover image: *Perfect Orchid* by Tanya Weliky (www.dreamstime.com)



8.570346

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Playing Time
67:50



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