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DDD

Playing Time
64:22

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Kommentar auf Deutsch
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Although best known for his symphonic poems and symphonies, Bax also wrote prolifically for the piano, his instrument from the first. The two-piano music heard on this recording was written mostly in the late 1920s for the husband and wife piano duet team of Ethel Bartlett and Rae Robertson. It encompasses captivating miniatures such as *The Poisoned Fountain*, whose repeated piano figuration is evocative of flowing water, the impressionistic *Moy Mell* (An Irish Tone-Poem) and *Hardanger*, which emulates the style of Grieg's folk-style piano music. The large-scale *Sonata for Two Pianos* includes a slow movement which is formally similar to some of the orchestral tone poems, and evokes an ancient Celtic world in a striking parallel with Bax's orchestral *The Garden of Fand*.

Arnold
BAX
(1883-1953)

Piano Works • 4 • Music for Two Pianos

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|--|-------|---|-------|
| 1 Festival Overture:
Allegro vivace | 13:51 | Sonata for Two Pianos | 21:44 |
| 2 The Poisoned Fountain:
Rapid | 4:12 | 4 Molto moderato (quasi andante) –
Allegretto scherzando
(ma no troppo presto) | 8:57 |
| 3 Moy Mell
(An Irish Tone-Poem):
Moderato tempo | 9:02 | 5 Lento espressivo | 7:59 |
| | | 6 Vivace e feroce
(ma non troppo presto) | 4:48 |
| | | 7 The Devil That
Tempted St Anthony:
Lento languido | 6:31 |
| | | 8 Red Autumn: Moderato | 5:33 |
| | | 9 Hardanger: Allegro vivace | 3:30 |

Ashley Wass and Martin Roscoe, Pianos

Recorded at Potton Hall, Westleton, Suffolk on 21st January, 2007 (track 1) and at St George's Church, Bristol, UK, on 20th and 21st November, 2006 (tracks 2-9)

Producer: Michael Ponder • Engineer: Mike Clements • Booklet Notes: Lewis Foreman

Publishers: Murdoch & Co. (tracks 2 & 4-9) • Master Music Publications (track 3) • Bax Estate (track 1)

Cover Painting: *Engaged* by Thomas James Lloyd (1849-1910)
(Private Collection/Bridgeman Art Library, London)