

Both *Black Pentecost* and *Stone Litany* share a symphonic scale and an Orkney setting. Premiered by Simon Rattle in 1982, *Black Pentecost* is an impassioned plea against environmental destruction, taking its words from Orcadian author George Mackay Brown's novel *Greenvoe*, and cast in the form of a vocal symphony. Chamber-like restraint is matched by tense, dark writing that embraces threnody and cataclysm. Beautifully orchestrated and featuring elaborate melismas from the vocal soloist, *Stone Litany*, subtitled 'Runes from a House of the Dead', evokes the haunted landscape of a Neolithic burial mound plundered by Vikings.

Sir Peter
MAXWELL DAVIES
 (b. 1934)

Black Pentecost (1979) ¹ 54:00

- 1 I. Adagio – Allegro molto 18:21**
2 II. Baritone: Black Star, Operation Black Star was how they described it 10:10
3 III. Mezzo-soprano: Bella Budge presided over a diminishing republic of hens 7:37
4 IV. Mezzo-soprano: It is a pity that the whole life and economy of the island... 17:51

Words by George Mackay Brown
 Music by Peter Maxwell Davies
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Stone Litany (1973) ² 22:44
'Runes from a House of the Dead'

- 5 Molto lento – Andante 4:26**
6 Recitativo lento Voice: The Runic Alphabet 1:23
7 Allegretto 2:32
8 Andante flessibile Voice: Ingibjorg the fair widow 2:06
9 Allegro molto 3:13
10 Moderato Voice: Lothbrokar's sons 6:59
11 Recitativo lento molto flessibile Voice: Max the Mighty 2:06

Della Jones, Mezzo-soprano ^{1,2} • David Wilson-Johnson, Baritone ¹
BBC Philharmonic • Maxwell Davies

Previously released on Collins Classics

The sung texts, transliterations and translations are included in the booklet, and may also be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/572359.htm

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Playing Time
 76:44



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