

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