

Howard Blake is a popular and prolific composer whose output includes film scores (not least the extraordinarily successful *The Snowman*), choral, orchestral and instrumental works, ballets and opera. This disc presents the world première recordings of *Four Songs of the Nativity*, commissioned by The Book Club for The Bach Choir and London Brass, and Blake's second dramatic oratorio, *The Passion of Mary*, commissioned by The Summer Music Society of Dorset in association with South West Arts. 'The *Passion of Mary* draws together the *Stabat Mater*, the *Magnificat*, the *Salve Regina* and other Marian and Nativity texts with the wisdom of a Berlioz. The outcome is a splendid, highly accessible choral work.' Roderick Dunnett (reviewing the London première for *Church Times*)

Howard BLAKE

(b. 1938)

The Passion of Mary • Four Songs of the Nativity

The Passion of Mary,
Op. 577 (2006) ¹

57:21

Four Songs of the Nativity,
Op. 415 (1990) ²

19:04

- ① Part 1 – Visitation, Nativity,
Childhood 23:13
- ② Part 2 – Temptation in the Wilderness,
Sermon on the Mount, Crucifixion 12:49
- ③ Part 3 – Stabat Mater Dolorosa 12:11
- ④ Part 4 – Resurrection, Salve Regina 9:08

- ⑤ Part 1 – Holy Mary, Mother Mild 6:37
- ⑥ Part 2 – Of a Rose, a Lovely Rose 5:40
- ⑦ Part 3 – Jesus, Son Most Sweet
and Dear 3:30
- ⑧ Part 4 – Let Us Gather
Hand in Hand 3:18

Patricia Rozario, Soprano ¹ • Robert William Blake, Treble ¹
Richard Edgar-Wilson, Tenor • David Wilson-Johnson, Bass-baritone ¹
London Voices • Brass of the Royal Philharmonic ²
Royal Philharmonic Orchestra ¹ • Howard Blake

Recorded at Abbey Road Studios, London, on 12th and 13th August, 2009
Producer: Michael Ponder • Engineer: Jonathan Allen • Editor: Jennifer Howells
Publisher: Highbridge Music Ltd. • Booklet notes: Brian Stone

Full artists' details can be found on page 2 of the booklet • The sung texts can be found in the booklet,
and may also be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/572453.htm

Cover: *The Lamentation of Christ (detail)* by Sandro Botticelli (1444/5-1510)
(Alte Pinakothek, Munich, Germany / Giraudon / The Bridgeman Art Library)

DDD

8.572453

Playing Time
76:25



www.naxos.com

© & © 2010
Naxos Rights International Ltd.
Booklet notes in English
Made in Germany