

Music for mixed ensembles has been a feature of the music of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies from the very beginning, as has the use of earlier musical styles ranging from a few years before to centuries earlier. *Linguae Ignis*, premiered in 2002 by the forces that perform it on this disc, is a beautiful, elegiac work. Maxwell Davies entwines two Pentecostal Plainchants, gradually generating rich dance patterns, to which the solo cello responds with eloquent reserve. Dating from much earlier, *Vesalii Icones*, which also has a prominent rôle for solo cello, is a set of fourteen dances, based on illustrations by Vesalius, that play out the Stations of the Cross in music of profound ritualistic expression. By contrast the *Fantasia and Two Pavans* provide a sardonic and provocative gloss on Purcell.

SIR PETER MAXWELL DAVIES

(b. 1934)

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|--------------|---|--------------|
| 1 | Linguae Ignis (2002)*† | 10:23 |
| | <i>for cello solo and instrumental ensemble</i> | |
| 2-15 | Vesalii Icones (1969)† | 39:57 |
| | <i>Music-Theatre work for dancer (ad libitum),
solo cello and instrumental ensemble</i> | |
| 16-18 | Fantasia on a Ground
and Two Pavans (1968) | 10:22 |
| | <i>Realisation for instrumental ensemble
after Henry Purcell</i> | |

***WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDING**

Vittorio Ceccanti, Cello†

Contempoartensemble • Mauro Ceccanti

A detailed track list and full artist details can be found on page 2 of the booklet.

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Playing Time
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