

The distinguished English composer Maurice Greene was appointed Master of the King's Music in 1735. He soon composed a series of 25 sonnet settings taken from the collection of 89 *Amoretti* ('little loves') written by Edmund Spenser, one of the greatest poets of the Shakespearean age. These settings show Greene to have been a master of word-painting technique, and a subtle colourist with a sensitive ear for Spenser's verse. This jewel of a collection is also historically important, as it can be considered one of the earliest song cycles in the history of English music.

Maurice
GREENE
(1696-1755)

25 sonnet settings taken from Spenser's Amoretti

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|------|----|---|------|
| 1 | After so long a race | 3:46 | 14 | The Love which me
so cruelly tormenteth | 3:19 |
| 2 | Happy ye leaves | 2:11 | 15 | Trust not the treason
of those smiling looks | 2:34 |
| 3 | Faire Eyes | 2:44 | 16 | Fayre cruell | 2:30 |
| 4 | Ye tradefull merchants | 2:02 | 17 | Faire yee be sure | 2:15 |
| 5 | The rolling wheele | 2:03 | 18 | Thrise happy she | 1:53 |
| 6 | The merry Cuckow | 2:21 | 19 | After long stormes | 2:10 |
| 7 | How long shall this
like dying life endure | 2:54 | 20 | Like as a huntsman | 1:27 |
| 8 | The Laurell leafe | 3:01 | 21 | Fresh Spring | 3:10 |
| 9 | Like as a ship | 3:31 | 22 | One day I wrote her name
upon the strand | 3:55 |
| 10 | What guile is this | 1:59 | 23 | Lacking my love | 2:19 |
| 11 | Arion | 2:34 | 24 | Since I did leave
the presence of my love | 2:45 |
| 12 | Sweet smile | 3:27 | 25 | Like as the Culver | 3:46 |
| 13 | Marke when the smiles | 1:41 | | | |

Benjamin Hulett, Tenor • Luke Green, Harpsichord
Giangiaco Pinardi, Theorbo

Recorded at Britten Studio, Snape Maltings, Suffolk, U.K., from 20th to 22nd February, 2012

Produced, engineered and edited by John Taylor • Booklet notes: Matthew Gardner

The sung texts can be found in the booklet and may also be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/572891.htm

Harpsichord after Goermans/Taskin, by Alan Gotto, Norwich, 1991

Cover: *London from Richmond House* by Antonio Canal (Canaletto) (1697-1768)
(Goodwood Collection, Chichester / akg-images)



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8.572891

Playing Time
66:17



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