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Playing Time
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An accomplished horn and viola player, York Bowen is said to have preferred the tone of the viola to the violin. Inspired by the virtuosity and vibrato style of the distinguished violist, Lionel Tertis, Bowen wrote several works for him and became his accompanist. Bowen's subtle shifts of key and heartfelt melodies are well in evidence here, including the powerful and poised *Rhapsody*, *Op. 149*, considered to be one of his most important works. Gustav Holst's daughter Imogen is represented here by the open-air freshness of her *Four Easy Pieces* and the terse, laconic narrative of her *Duo for Viola and Piano*. Britten's spiky *Waltz* is full of 1930s wit.

Chamber Music with Viola

York BOWEN (1884–1961)

1 Melody for the C String, Op. 51, No. 2 (c. 1918) 4:51

2 Allegro de Concert, Op. 21, No. 2 (1906)† 8:58

Imogen HOLST (1907–1984)

3–6 Four Easy Pieces (1935) 6:07

Benjamin BRITTON (1913–1976)

7 Suite for Violin and Piano, Op. 6 – V. Waltz: Alla valse, vivace e rubato (1934–35)†* 5:21

York BOWEN

8–10 Three Duos for Violin and Viola (late 1940s)** 6:21

11 Romance in A major, Op. 21, No. 1 (1908)† 6:20

Imogen HOLST

12–14 Duo for Viola and Piano (1968) 10:03

York BOWEN

15 Romance in D flat major (1900, arr. 1904)† 6:03

16 Melody for the G String, Op. 47 (c. 1917)† 4:59

17 Rhapsody in G minor, Op. 149 (1955) 15:29

† Version for viola and piano

A detailed track list can be found inside the booklet

* FIRST RECORDING OF THIS VERSION ** FIRST COMMERCIAL AUDIO RECORDING

Yue Yu, Viola

Anthony Hewitt, Piano 1–7 11–17

Jeffrey Armstrong, Violin 8–10

Recorded: 9–11 September 2019 at The Bradshaw Hall, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, UK

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