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Playing Time
60:40

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Lord Berners excelled in the ballet medium where he enjoyed collaborations with leading choreographers and conductors with whom his natural flair for spectacle and design could be explored to the full. In 1946 he wrote *Les Sirènes*, set on a French beach in 1904 with an exotic cast – the music is atmospheric, graceful and full of allusions to other composers. *Cupid and Psyche* was not a critical success but its music transcended weaknesses in the scenario and the suite is both orchestrally deft and thematically memorable.

**BIRMINGHAM
ROYAL BALLET**
**Lord
BERNERS**

(1883–1950)

① Fanfare (1931)	0:32	⑨ Pas de deux*	4:04
Les Sirènes		⑩ Scene*	5:57
(Complete Ballet) (1946)	34:30	⑪ Dénouement*	3:36
② Prelude	1:53	Cupid and Psyche	25:37
③ Opening Scene*	3:18	(Ballet Suite) (1939)*	
④ Entry of Fashionable Folk:		⑫ Overture	2:44
Tempo di Valse	1:35	⑬ Psyche	1:37
⑤ Mazurka	3:06	⑭ Pas de deux	4:31
⑥ Farruca*	1:44	⑮ Entracte	2:56
⑦ Allegro agitato*	3:53	⑯ Les Zéphyrs	5:22
⑧ Habanera	5:24	⑰ Prelude to Act 3	2:25
		⑱ Valse lente and Final Dance	5:48

*WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

Miriam Blennerhassett, Mezzo-soprano ⑧ ⑩

Members of the RTÉ Chamber Choir ③ ⑩ ⑪

Royal Ballet Sinfonia ① • **Gavin Sutherland** ①

RTÉ Sinfonietta ②-⑩ • **David Lloyd-Jones** ②-⑩

Recorded: 15 September 1999 at Whitfield Street Studios, London, UK ①, and 10–11 November 1994 at O'Reilly Hall, Dublin, Ireland ②-⑩ • Producers: Philip Lane ①, Chris Craker ②-⑩

Engineers: Mike Ross-Trevor ①, Simon Rhodes ②-⑩ • Booklet notes: Philip Lane

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Cover: *Cupid Delivering Psyche* (1867) (detail) by Edward Burne-Jones (1833–1898)