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Playing Time
59:37Made in Germany
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Booklet notes in English

Composer and novelist, Anthony Burgess, was a unique creative artist whose dual mastery of music and literature resulted in a career strewn with an output of remarkable diversity. Burgess came into contact with the Aïghetta Guitar Quartet while living in Monte Carlo in 1986, and the sublime arrangements and original works in this recording were all composed for this ensemble. The three guitar quartets range from the well-crafted *First Quartet* intended as a homage to Ravel, while the *Second* and *Third Quartets* explore virtuoso technique alongside adventurous and at times haunting harmonies and polytonality.

Anthony BURGESS

(1917–1993)

Complete Guitar Quartets

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| Anthony BURGESS | | TRADITIONAL | |
| Guitar Quartet No. 1 'Quatuor en hommage à Maurice Ravel' (1986) 12:56 | | Trois Morceaux Irlandais (arr. A. Burgess, 1988)* 4:57 | |
| 1 I. Très vif 4:20 | 9 No. 1. The Ballad of Persse O'Reilly 2:04 | | |
| 2 II. Passacaille: Assez lent 4:14 | 10 No. 2. The Lark in the Clear Air 2:01 | | |
| 3 III. Très vivace 4:17 | 11 No. 3. Jig 'The Irish Washerwoman' 0:52 | | |
| Gustav HOLST (1874–1934) | | Anthony BURGESS | |
| 4 The Planets, Op. 32 – III. Mercury, the Winged Messenger (1916) (arr. A. Burgess, 1987)* 4:08 | | Guitar Quartet No. 3 (1989) 12:11 | |
| Anthony BURGESS | | 12 I. Allegro vivace – 5:07 | |
| Guitar Quartet No. 2 (1988) 16:15 | | 13 II. Andantino 2:52 | |
| 5 Prélude: Poco lento – I. Fuga: Molto moderato 3:24 | | 14 III. Moderato molto 4:11 | |
| 6 II. Scherzo: Presto 3:25 | | Carl Maria von WEBER (1786–1826) | |
| 7 III. Chorale: Moderato 4:31 | | 15 Oberon, J. 306 – Overture (1826) (arr. A. Burgess, 1987)* 8:57 | |
| 8 IV. Rondo: Allegro 4:49 | | | |

* WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

Mêla Guitar Quartet

Matthew Robinson • George Tarlton • Daniel Bovey • Jiva Housden

Recorded: 29–31 May 2017 [1]–[3] [5]–[15] and 3 September 2018 [4] at All Saints Church, Weston, UK
Producers: George Tarlton, Daniel Bovey • Engineer: Harry Tarlton • Editors: Harry Tarlton [1]–[14], Daniel Bovey [15] • Booklet notes: Paul Phillips • Publisher: from manuscript with kind permission of The International Anthony Burgess Foundation • Cover image © Martin Cambiglia / Shutterstock.com