

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

Anthony BURGESS

Guitar Quartet No. 1 'Quatuor en hommage à Maurice Ravel' (1986) 12:56

1 I. Très vif

2 II. Passacaille: Assez lent

3 III. Très vivace

Gustav HOLST (1874–1934)

4 The Planets, Op. 32 – III. Mercury, the Winged Messenger (1916)
(arr. A. Burgess, 1987)* 4:08

Anthony BURGESS

Guitar Quartet No. 2 (1988) 16:15

5 Prélude: Poco lento –

6 II. Scherzo: Presto

7 III. Chorale: Moderato

8 IV. Rondo: Allegro

TRADITIONAL

Trois Morceaux Irlandais

(arr. A. Burgess, 1988)* 4:57

9 No. 1. The Ballad of Persse O'Reilly 2:04

10 No. 2. The Lark in the Clear Air 2:01

11 No. 3. Jig 'The Irish Washerwoman' 0:52

Anthony BURGESS

Guitar Quartet No. 3 (1989) 12:11

12 I. Allegro vivace – 5:07

13 II. Andantino 2:52

14 III. Moderato molto 4:11

Carl Maria von WEBER (1786–1826)

15 Oberon, J. 306 – Overture (1826) 8:57

(arr. A. Burgess, 1987)*

* WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

Mēla 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

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DDD

Playing Time
59:37



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