

On a routine tour of duty in December 1900 the supply ship *Hesperus* discovered the Flannan Isles lighthouse in the Outer Hebrides to be empty, the three keepers apparently having disappeared into thin air. Peter Maxwell Davies' haunting and thrilling chamber opera *The Lighthouse* is heard here in its classic première recording. It shows what might have become of the three men, marooned in their storm-bound tower and overwhelmed by ghostly visions and crazed desperation, creating a dramatic imagining of a story which remains a mystery to this day.

Sir Peter
MAXWELL DAVIES
 (b. 1934)

The Lighthouse (1979)

A chamber opera in a prologue and one act
 Music and Libretto by the composer

Part 1: Prologue

1 The Court of Enquiry 27:27

Part 2: Act

2 The Cry of the Beast 11:22

3 Blazes' Song 3:34

4 Sandy's Song 4:24

5 Arthur's Song 25:42

WORLD PRÉMIÈRE RECORDING

Sandy, Officer I Neil Mackie, Tenor
 Blazes, Officer II Christopher Keyte, Baritone
 Arthur, Officer III, Voice of the Cards Ian Comboy, Bass

Members of the BBC Philharmonic • Maxwell Davies

Previously released on Collins Classics

The libretto can be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/660354.htm

Recorded live at The Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, UK, on February 22nd, 1994

Producer: Veronica Slater • Engineer: John Timperley • Publisher: Chester Music Ltd.

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Playing Time
 72:29



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