

Among Stephen Dodgson's portfolio of more than 250 works are chamber operas, of which *Margaret Catchpole: Two Worlds Apart* is a most striking example. It is based on the true story of a woman who was convicted of the then capital crime of horse stealing and transported to Australia, and Dodgson conveys the romance and drama of the story with characteristic lyricism and rhythmic energy. Words are paramount for Dodgson, and his setting is vivid, immediate and tonal, with some swaggering rustic moments amidst the precise characterisation and idiomatic instrumental writing.

Stephen Dodgson  
Charitable Trust

Stephen  
**DODGSON**  
(1924–2013)

## Margaret Catchpole: Two Worlds Apart

Chamber opera in four acts (1979)

Libretto by Ronald Fletcher (1921–1992),  
based on the novel by Richard Cobbold (1797–1877)

Margaret Catchpole .....	Kate Howden, Mezzo-soprano
Will Laud .....	William Wallace, Tenor
John Luff .....	Nicholas Morris, Bass
John Barry .....	Alistair Ollerenshaw, Baritone
Crusoe .....	Richard Edgar-Wilson, Tenor
Mrs Cobbold .....	Diana Moore, Mezzo-soprano
Dr Stebbing .....	Peter Wilcock, Bass
Judge .....	Matthew Brook, Bass
Mrs Palmer .....	Julia Sporsén, Soprano

Perpetuo • Julian Perkins

WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

CD 1 Act I	45:52	CD 2 Act II	47:49	CD 3 Acts III–IV	82:07
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A detailed track list and full artists' details can be found inside the booklet.

The English libretto can be accessed at [www.naxos.com/libretti/660459.htm](http://www.naxos.com/libretti/660459.htm)

Recorded: 5–7 July 2019 at the Britten Studio, Snape Maltings, Suffolk, UK

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Booklet notes and synopsis: Richard Edgar-Wilson • Publisher: © Stephen Dodgson Charitable Trust

Cover image by Leonora Dawson-Bowling, after the original Margaret Catchpole 'wanted' poster

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**DDD**

Playing Time  
2:55:48

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