Howard
HANSON
(1896-1981)
Merry Mount, Op. 31
Opera in Three Acts and Six Scenes
Libretto by Richard L. Stokes

Lady Marigold Sandys . . . Lauren Flanigan, Soprano
Sir Gower Lackland . . . . Walter MacNeil, Tenor
Wrestling Bradford . . . . Richard Zeller, Baritone
Praise-God Tewke . . . . . Charles Robert Austin, Bass

Seattle Symphony Chorale
Northwest Boychoir • Seattle Girls' Choir
Seattle Symphony • Gerard Schwarz

CD 1	**45:13**
1 - 12 Act I	45:13
CD 2	**78:49**
1 - 13 Act II	53:06
14 - 19 Act III	25:43

A full track and cast list can be found
on pages 2 to 4 of the booklet.
Recorded live at Seattle Center Opera House, Washington,
on 28th and 29th October, 1996.
Producer: Adam Stern • Engineer: Al Swanson
Booklet notes: Steven Lowe and Keith Anderson
Publisher: HARMS Inc., New York
Cover picture: *Whitsun Ales* by Francis Donkin Bedford
(Mary Evans / Edwin Wallace)
American flag, folk artist, 1880s.

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Born in Nebraska, of Scandinavian heritage, Howard Hanson was influenced as much by Jean Sibelius as by his American surroundings. The plot of his 1933 opera, *Merry Mount*, set in New England in 1625 during a conflict between the Puritans and the Cavaliers, is anything but merry. However, the composer described the music as "warm-blooded…essentially a lyrical work [that] makes use of broad melodic lines as often as possible". Listeners familiar with Hanson's first two symphonies will find strong melodic and harmonic affinities with *Merry Mount*. This recording derives from a critically acclaimed pair of concert performances by Seattle Symphony and Gerard Schwarz in October 1996. Hanson's *Symphony No. 1* can be heard on Naxos 8.559072.

Seattle Symphony is deeply grateful to the Kreielsheimer Foundation for making possible this performance of Merry Mount for the 100th anniversary of Howard Hanson's birth

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