



Havergal Brian (1876 – 1972) is renowned as the composer of 32 powerful symphonies (then the largest symphonic cycle since Haydn), 21 of them composed after his 80th birthday; his First Symphony, *The Gothic*, is reputed to be the largest ever composed. But in the first part of his career Brian was also active on a smaller scale, his songs attracting the advocacy of singers as prominent as John McCormack and John Coates. The range of emotions in these songs is nonetheless vast, from folky innocence via Shakespearean irony to deep tragedy. Brian Rayner Cooke's performances can be taken as authoritative: he studied the songs with the composer. This CD is completed by the *Legend* for violin and piano, Brian's only surviving piece of chamber music.

MIT DEUTSCHEM KOMMENTAR ~ NOTES EN FRANÇAIS

HAVERGAL BRIAN *The Soul of Steel*

Songs for baritone and piano

- 1 When Icicles Hang by the Wall
- 2 Take, O Take Those Lips Away
- 3 Sorrow Song
- 4 The Message
- 5 Farewell
- 6 Care-Charmer Sleep
- 7 Since Love is Dead
- 8 The Soul of Steel
- 9 Why Dost Thou Wound and Break My Heart?

2:11
1:03
3:52
2:22
4:42
4:42
2:50
4:52
2:53

- 10 On Parting
- 11 Lady Ellayne
- 12 Renunciation
- 13 Love is a Merry Game
- 14 Piping Down the Valleys Wild
- 15 The Chimney Sweeper
- 16 The Land of Dreams
- 17 The Defiled Sanctuary
- 18 Legend, for violin and piano

2:11
1:51
3:34
1:45
2:03
2:56
4:01
2:57
5:47

TT 56:39

Brian Rayner Cooke, baritone
Roger Vignoles, piano

Steven Levine, violin
Peter Lawson, piano

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