



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 folksy innocence via Shakespearean irony to deep tragedy. Brian Rayner Cook'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	2:11	10 On Parting	2:11
2 Take, O Take Those Lips Away	1:03	11 Lady Ellayne	1:51
3 Sorrow Song	3:52	12 Renunciation	3:34
4 The Message	2:22	13 Love is a Merry Game	1:45
5 Farewell	4:42	14 Piping Down the Valleys Wild	2:03
6 Care-Charmer Sleep	4:42	15 The Chimney Sweeper	2:56
7 Since Love is Dead	2:50	16 The Land of Dreams	4:01
8 The Soul of Steel	4:52	17 The Defiled Sanctuary	2:57
9 Why Dost Thou Wound and Break My Heart?	2:53	18 Legend, for violin and piano	5:47
			TT 56:39

Brian Rayner Cooke, baritone
Roger Vignoles, piano

Steven Levine, violin
Peter Lawson, piano

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