

Algernon Ashton, born in Durham in 1859, is one of the best-kept secrets in British music. His generous output of piano music includes no fewer than eight sonatas, none of them ever recorded before now. Rutland Boughton wrote that Ashton 'seems to pour out great musical thought as easily as the lark trills its delight in cloudland', and though Ashton's piano writing, which lies downstream from Chopin and Brahms, is phenomenally difficult, what strikes the ear is its spontaneity and melodic richness.



ALGERNON ASHTON Piano Music, Volume One

<i>Nocturne and Menuet, Op. 39</i>	10:44	<i>Vier Bagatellen, Op. 79</i>	7:26
1 Nocturne (<i>Andantino</i>)	5:53	7 1. <i>Allegretto amoroso</i>	1:44
2 Menuet (<i>Allegretto</i>)	4:51	8 2. <i>Andante cantabile</i>	2:15
<i>Sonata No. 8 in F major, Op. 174</i>	26:10	9 3. <i>Larghetto con gran espressione</i>	2:12
3 I. <i>Allegro soave</i>	7:36	10 4. <i>Allegro frescamente</i>	1:15
4 II. <i>Lento: Con gran espressione</i>	6:50	<i>Sonata No. 4 in D minor, Op. 164</i>	30:05
5 III. Scherzo: <i>Allegro animato</i>	4:12	11 I. <i>Allegro</i>	9:15
6 IV. Finale: <i>Allegro frescamente</i>	7:32	12 II. <i>Largo assai</i>	6:44
		13 III. Intermezzo: <i>Moderato</i>	4:51
		14 IV. Finale: <i>Allegro, ma non troppo</i>	9:15
		TT 74:25	

Daniel Grimwood, piano

FIRST RECORDINGS

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