

Instrumental and vocal techniques are intertwined in the music of Harrison Birtwistle: he often treats the voice instrumentally and his instrumental writing has vocal characteristics. Many of his works for small ensembles, with or without voices, occupy this common ground, his highly individual style juxtaposing the static and the violently dynamic and intersecting with his fondness for ritual and myth – not least a recurrent concern with the figure of Orpheus. This recording presents some of these relatively neglected pieces, recorded live in the presence of the composer, who also talks about his songs in interview.



## SIR HARRISON BIRTWISTLE Songs 1970–2006

1	<i>Nenia: The Death of Orpheus</i> (1970)	12:45	21	<i>Lullaby</i> (2006)**	1:50
2	<i>Orpheus Elegies</i> (2004)	12:09	22	<i>Songs by Myself</i> (1984)	7:49
10	<i>Fantasia III</i> (1996)	1:51	27	<i>Interview</i>	3:09
11	<i>Nine Settings of Lorine Niedecker</i> (2000)	10:30	28	<i>Cantus lambeus</i> (2004)*	6:20
20	<i>Frieze I</i> (1991)	3:50			TT 60:43

Alice Rossi, soprano 1 22–26

Doga Sacilik, oboe 2–9

Jasmin-Isabel Kühne, harp 2–9

Johannes Euler, countertenor 4 6 9

Kuss Quartet 10 20

Sophia Körber, soprano 11–19 21

Sarah Lewark, soprano 21

Aram Yagubian, cello 11–19

Das Neue Ensemble 1 22–26 28

Stefan Asbury, conductor 1 22–26 28

Sir Harrison Birtwistle 27

Stephan Meier 27

\*FIRST RECORDING

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IN THIS VERSION

LIVE PERFORMANCES

DDD



MADE IN GERMANY