

The English composer John Pickard (b. 1963) is best known for a series of powerful orchestral works, five symphonies among them. But this album of songs – his complete output for voice and piano to date – demonstrates that he can generate drama on a smaller scale, too. These settings – of two less familiar poets of the First World War, often exploring man's relationship with nature, and a translation of a ninth-century Anglo-Saxon phantasmagorical allegory – encompass a wide range of moods, requiring soaring vocal lines, declamatory authority and the gentlest intimacy, supported by piano textures that can flare up in freewheeling virtuosity.



TOCC 0413

## JOHN PICKARD Songs for Voice and Piano

### *Binyon Songs* (2010–12)

- 1 I Nature
- 2 II Sowing Seed
- 3 III Autumn Song
- 4 IV When all the world is hidden
- 5 V The Burning of the Leaves

15:55

2:00

3:01

1:02

2:13

7:39

10 IV Out in the Dark

11 V The Gallows

12 VI Rain

13 VII No One Cares Less Than I

14 VIII Last Poem (The Sorrow of True Love)

15 IX Lights Out

2:19

4:52

3:52

1:56

2:29

5:25

### 6 *The Phoenix* (1992)

16:00

### *The Borders of Sleep* (2000–1)

28:39

- 7 I Tall Nettles
- 8 II The Trumpet
- 9 III The Mill-Water

2:24

1:31

3:51

TT 61:01

Roderick Williams, baritone 1–5 7–15

Eve Daniell, soprano 6

Simon Lepper, piano

FIRST RECORDINGS

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