

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

### *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]

FIRST RECORDINGS

Eve Daniell, soprano [6]

Simon Lepper, piano

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