

This fourth Toccata Classics album of the chamber music of Gerard Schurmann – born in the former Dutch East Indies in 1924, naturalised Briton and now a resident of Los Angeles – adds two major song-cycles (one of them written for Britten and Pears) and works for flute and piano to the mix, in a distinctly personal language derived from influences ranging from Javanese gamelan to Bartók and Britten. Schurmann's music somehow manages to blend elegant intensity and touching lyricism, with a result balanced between strength and sensitivity.



TOCC 0520

GERARD SCHURMANN Chamber and Instrumental Music and Songs, Vol. Four

Chuench'i: Song-Cycle

from the Chinese (1966)*

- | | | |
|---------|--|------|
| [1] I | New Corn (T'ao Ch'ien) | 2:33 |
| [2] II | Plucking the Rushes (anon.) | 1:15 |
| [3] III | Shang Ya! (from 'Oaths of Friendship') | 1:06 |
| [4] IV | Flowers and Moonlight on the Spring River (Emperor Yang-ti) | 3:26 |
| [5] V | Look at that Little Bay of the Ch'i (from 'The Book of Songs') | 2:17 |
| [6] VI | Self-abandonment (Li Po) | 2:55 |
| [7] VII | At the End of Spring (Po Chü-i) | 3:55 |

[8] *Moonbird for solo flute* (1998)

4:12

Four Pastoral Preludes for piano (2012)

10:43

- | | | |
|------|----------------|------|
| [9] | No. 1 Bellac | 2:56 |
| [10] | No. 2 Grotto | 2:54 |
| [11] | No. 3 Rivulets | 1:44 |
| [12] | No. 4 Solitude | 3:09 |

Sonatina for Flute and Piano (1968)

10:30

- [13] *Sostenuto – Allegro vivace – Lento –*
Variations 1–5 – Allegro vivace – Sostenuto

Two Ballades for Piano:

Homage to Janáček (1981–83)

17:09

- | | | |
|------|----------------|-------|
| [14] | No. 1 Hukvaldy | 5:38 |
| [15] | No. 2 Brno | 11:31 |

Six Songs of William Blake

(1956, rev. 1997 and 2018)

17:01

- | | | |
|------|----------------------------------|------|
| [16] | No. 1 Augury – | 1:45 |
| [17] | No. 2 Ah! Sun-flower | 2:45 |
| [18] | No. 3 I Laid Me Down Upon a Bank | 3:59 |
| [19] | No. 4 Eternity | 2:18 |
| [20] | No. 5 The Sick Rose | 1:24 |
| [21] | No. 6 To the Evening Star | 4:50 |

TT 77:16

Randall Bills, tenor [1]–[7] [16]–[21]

Mark Robson, piano [1]–[7] [9]–[12] [14]–[21]

Maxim Rubtsov, flute [8] [13]

Mikhail Korzhev, piano [13]

ALL EXCEPT * FIRST RECORDINGS

TOCCATA CLASSICS

16 Dalkeith Court,
 Vincent Street,
 London SW1P 4HH, UK

Tel: +44/0 207 821 5020

E-mail: info@toccataclassics.com

© Toccata Classics, London, 2019

© Toccata Classics, London, 2019

