



TOCC 0579

The English composer-pianist Freda Swain (1902–85) left a huge legacy of music that was largely unknown even while she was alive. Her compositions – hundreds of them, in a series of large boxes – found their way to the Swiss pianist Timon Altwegg, who begins his survey of her piano music with Swain's three mighty sonatas. They are astonishing discoveries: big-boned, virtuosic pieces, full of wild energy, crossing from late Romanticism to a more modern idiom – from Rachmaninov to Bartók, so to speak – and with Bax's fondness for Celtic seascapes and a hint of Debussyan Impressionism.

FREDA SWAIN Piano Music, Volume One

Sonata Saga in F minor (1925–30)	29:39	8 An English Idyll (1942)	4:46
1 I Misterioso –	9:38	Piano Sonata No. 2 in F sharp minor (1950)	17:57
2 II Lento tranquillo –	10:34	9 I Toccata: Allegro vigoroso e ritmico	7:20
3 III Con molto energia	9:27	10 II Canzona Pastorale:	
4 The Croon of the Sea (1920)	6:21	Poco andante e semplice	5:34
Piano Sonata No. 1 in A minor,		11 III Interlude	1:09
The Skerries (1936–37; rev. 1945)	14:18	12 IV Pandean Rondo: Poco allegro, giojoso	3:49
5 I Vigoroso	5:46	13 The Red Flower	4:36
6 II Non troppo lento, malinconio	4:34		
7 III Moderato misterioso, lontano –			
poco allegro e ritmico	3:58		
			TT 77:34

Timon Altwegg, piano

FIRST RECORDINGS

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