

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 Debussy's Impressionism.



TOCC 0579

FREDA SWAIN Piano Music, Volume One

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

Timon Altwegg, piano

FIRST RECORDINGS



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