



TOCC 0741

For the latter part of her long life, Ester Mägi (1922–2021) was known as ‘the First Lady of Estonian music’, her modest, charming disposition endearing her to all who met her. But her music reveals the true strength of her personality, and this first complete recording of her songs for female voice – over half a century of compositional activity – covers a striking emotional range, from the ambivalent feelings of falling in love to dramatic ritual invocations of startling force and power. Many of the earlier songs are openly romantic, but Mägi soon began to tap into the hypnotic energy of Estonian runic folksong, with its echoes of village life and its incantations intended to placate a hostile environment.

ESTER MÄGI Complete Songs for Female Voice

1	<i>Five Romances</i> (1963)	9:44	16	<i>Songs to Poetry by Betti Alver</i> (1981)	7:08
6	<i>Two Romances</i> (1964)**	3:35	19	<i>Three Seto Fairytale Songs</i> (1984)	9:11
8	<i>To the Swing!</i> (1948)*	1:35	22	<i>Night Shades</i> (2001)	4:45
9	<i>Words Found a Lovely Melody</i> (1955)*	3:31	23	<i>Two Songs for soprano or mezzo-soprano, cello and piano</i> (1998)	7:36
10	<i>Leaves Were Falling</i> (1946)*	1:32	25	<i>The Marian Fern for soprano, flute and piano</i> (1988)	3:40
11	<i>A Snowflake</i> (1948)*	1:31	26	<i>Herding Calls for soprano, flute and guitar</i> (1995)	10:04
12	<i>Cheating Old Nick</i> (1984)*	1:30	27	<i>Songs from the Fields</i> (1988/2005)	8:49
13	<i>White Ball</i> (1961)*	3:02			
14	<i>Two Songs to Words by Ernst Enno</i> (1999)	5:00			
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Maarja Purga, mezzo-soprano
Sten Lassmann, piano 1–25 27
Valle-Rasmus Roots, cello 23 24

Mari-Liis Vind, flute 25 26
Kirill Ogorodnikov, guitar 26

*FIRST RECORDINGS
 **FIRST COMPLETE RECORDING



MADE IN GERMANY

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