



TOCC 0749

It is remarkable not only that the London-based Noah Max (b. 1998) should have composed four string quartets by his mid-twenties; their stylistic range is also surprisingly wide. No. 1, which sets Jean Giono's story 'The Man who Planted Trees', narrated here by Sir Michael Morpurgo, has distant roots in English pastoralism, but the refracted lines, furtive colours and ecstatic textures of Nos. 2 and 3 are much closer to European modernism in tone, with echoes of Kurtág and Ligeti. In further contrast, No. 4 is a wild ride, its manic, swirling rhythms interrupted by passages of whispered intimacy that eventually draw it into silence.

NOAH MAX String Quartets

String Quartet No. 1, <i>The Man Who Planted Trees</i>, Op. 25 (2020)	24:26
1 I <i>Andante desolato</i>	10:10
2 II <i>Maestoso</i> ; expansive	8:04
3 III <i>Vivo</i>	6:12
4 String Quartet No. 3, Op. 41 (2022)	10:44
5 String Quartet No. 4, Op. 45 (2022–23)	15:37
String Quartet No. 2, Op. 37 (2021–22)	17:57
6 I <i>Andante glaciale</i>	6:02
7 II <i>Intensamente con ira</i>	8:11
1 III <i>Unearthly</i> ; mesmeric	3:44
	TT 68:46

Sir Michael Morpurgo, narrator 1–3
The Tippett Quartet
 John Mills and Jeremy Isaac, violins
 Lydia Lowndes-Northcott, viola
 Božidar Vukotić, cello

FIRST RECORDINGS

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