

TIPPETT: *A Child of Our Time*

Faye Robinson, Sarah Walker, Jon Garrison, John Cheek; Birmingham Symphony & Chorus/
Michael Tippett—Naxos 557570—69 minutes

This 1992 recording was originally published by Chandos and reviewed by Paul Schlueter (July/Aug 1993). I can readily second his commentary. After citing the excellence of several previous recordings (John Pritchard, Colin Davis, Andre Previn) he concludes that Hickox and his soloists offer "weighty competition" for the other recordings. In particular he applauds the four soloists, all talented black singers from the United States. All four are heard in the EMI recording of *Porgy and Bess* and appeared together on stage in *Porgy* at Covent Garden. This suggests a professional and vocal ease together that is nicely carried over to the Tippett. All offer vivid, exciting interpretations. Special praise to bass Willard White, who gets the lion's share of the music. This is a beautifully sung and interpreted performance of this majestic work.

The complete English text is included.

PARSONS