

This disc features the world première recording of the cantata *Willow-Wood*, a little known yet substantial work by the great British composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams. Scored for baritone, women's choir and orchestra, *Willow-Wood* is a luxuriant setting of part of Dante Gabriel Rossetti's sequence *The House of Life*. Unrecorded since the LP era, the choral cantata *The Sons of Light* is a dazzling depiction of the passing of the sun, with many of the magical harmonic and rhythmical effects for which Vaughan Williams was renowned.

Ralph VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

(1872–1958)

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------|
| 1 | Toward the Unknown Region (Song for Chorus and Orchestra) | 11:39 |
| 2 | Willow-Wood *(Cantata for Baritone and Orchestra) | 13:55 |
| 3 | The Voice out of the Whirlwind
(Motet for Chorus and Orchestra) | 5:15 |
| 4 | Five Variants of Dives and Lazarus (for Strings and Harp) | 11:38 |
| | The Sons of Light (Cantata for Chorus and Orchestra) | 19:24 |
| 5 | Darkness and Light | 9:07 |
| 6 | The Song of the Zodiac | 6:10 |
| 7 | The Messengers of Speech | 4:06 |

Roderick Williams, Baritone
Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir and Orchestra
David Lloyd-Jones

*** WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDING**

Recorded in the Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, UK, on 20th February and 8th May, 2005

Producer: Adrian Hunter • Engineer: Mike Clements • Booklet Notes: Lewis Foreman

Publishers: Stainer & Bell (Tracks 1-2) Oxford University Press (Tracks 3-7)

Cover Picture: *The Bower Meadow*, 1872 by Dante Gabriel Rossetti (1828–1882)

(City Art Gallery, Manchester / AKG Images)

This recording was made possible by the kind financial support of the Directors of RVW Ltd.



8.557798

DDD

Playing Time
61:51



www.naxos.com

© & © 2005 Naxos Rights International Ltd.
 Booklet notes in English
 Sung texts included
 Made in Canada