NAXOS

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HUGO WEISGALL: T'KIATOT

Playing Time 68:03

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HUGO WEISGALL (1912–97)

T'kiatot: Rituals for Rosh Hashana (1986)

1. I. Malkhuyyot	10:30
2. II. Zikhronot	8:02
3. III. Shofarot	7:01
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Seattle Symphony Steven A. Ovitsky, shofar Gerard Schwarz, conductor

Psalm of the Distant Dove (1992)

4. Prelude: My Lover Called	1:20
5. Days of Cold Are Past	2:22
6. Prelude: The Dove Knows Her Mate	2:29
7. Distant Dove	3:59
8. Elegy	1:36
9. Prelude: Birds Struggle	2:48
10. Avi, Avi	4:08

Ana María Martínez, soprano Kristen Okerlund, piano

Four Choral Etudes (1960)

11. Yihyu l'ratzon	1:53
12. Hodu ladonai	1:56
13. B'tzet yisrael	1:58
14. Ki lo na'e	2:02

BBC Singers Avner Itai, conductor

A Garden Eastward (1952)

15. I. Fantasia	4:58
16. II. Scherzo	4:09
17. III. Free Variations	6:28

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Phyllis Bryn-Julson, soprano Barcelona Symphony/National Orchestra of Catalonia Jorge Mester, conductor



Hugo Weisgall, one of the 20th century's most individualistic and creative composers, united an early affinity for the musical aesthetics of Schoenberg, Berg, and Webern with a lifelong commitment to and fascination with his Jewish heritage. His symphonic masterpiece, T'kiatot, is based on a central section of the traditional Rosh Hashana service in which the shofar (ram's horn) is sounded three times. The aweinspiring blasts of an actual shofar are set within a richly chromatic orchestral texture to brilliant effect. The song cycle Psalm of the Distant Dove, based on biblical and medieval Hebrew-Spanish poetry, celebrates the mystical, age-old relationship between God and His loving but suffering people Israel, represented by the image of a dove. Also inspired by the Golden Age of Spanish Jewry is A Garden Eastward, one of Weisgall's most rhapsodic vocal and orchestral conceptions, which the composer once called his "most beautiful work."



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