Of Georgian/Russian and Greek/Austrian parentage, British composer Lydia Kakabadse has a number of music theatre, vocal, choral and chamber works to her credit. The Arabian Rhapsody Suite for string quartet is characterized by vibrant rhythms and melodies of the Middle East while Russian Tableaux, also for string quartet, is a bitter-sweet tribute to the landscape, history and culture of Russia. Set to texts by the 19th-century poet Thomas Hood, The Song of the Shirt tells the story of the pitiful existence of a poor seamstress. The Mermaid is based on the composer’s own fairy tale and the haunting musical drama The Phantom Listeners was inspired by Walter de la Mare’s poetry.

Lydia KAKABADSE
(b.1955)

1-3 The Mermaid 1 11:59
4-6 Russian Tableaux 2 10:48
7 The Song of the Shirt 3 4:04
8-10 Arabian Rhapsody Suite 4 9:48
11-16 The Phantom Listeners 5 38:34

Kit Hesketh-Harvey, Narrator 1,5
Emma Brain-Gabbott, Soprano 5 • Clare McCaldin, Mezzo-soprano 1,3,5
Michael Bundy, Baritone 5 • Madeleine Easton, Violin 1,2,4,5
Sarah-Jane Bradley, Viola 1,2,4,5 • Bozidar Vukotic, Cello 1,2,4
Caroline Dale, Cello 5 • Ben Griffiths, Double bass 1,2,4
Tim Amherst, Double bass 5 • Nigel Shipway, Timpani 5
Ben Fullbrook, Percussion 5 • Christian Wilson, Piano/Organ 1,3,5
George Vass, Conductor 1,5

A detailed tracklist appears on page 8 of the booklet
Recorded at St Michael’s Church, South Grove, Highgate, London on 5th, 15th and 16th February, 2010. Producer: Simon Weir • Engineer: Morgan Roberts • Editing: The Classical Recording Company, Ltd. Booklet Notes: Lydia Kakabadse • Cover art: The Traveller’s Ghostly Tale by John Dyer
Available sung/narrated texts may be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/572524.htm