



artist: Nicholas Phan, tenor
Michael Leopold, lute
Ann-Marie Morgan, viola da gamba

title: A Painted Tale
Blow – Dowland – Ferrabosco – Lanier - Purcell

price: Full price

release date: February 2015

selection number: AV 2325

bar code: 822252232523

about the release

For his third AVIE album, tenor **Nicholas Phan** turns to a group of Renaissance and Baroque English composers who greatly influenced Benjamin Britten, the muse of his two previous recordings – *Still falls the Rain* (AV 2258) and *Winter Words* (AV 2238), his solo debut recording

which topped the Best Classical Recordings lists of NPR, The New Yorker, and The New York Times. *A Painted Tale* – the title taken from a lyric by 16th century composer Thomas Morley – features songs with lute and viola da gamba by Blow, Dowland, Ferrabosco, Lanier and Purcell. Describing the programme, which tells a story of love gained and then lost, Nick says, “Reading the poetry in these songs I am fascinated by how little the human experience has changed over the centuries. By assembling these various songs into what I call ‘a pastiche song cycle,’ I hope that creating a dramatic context for these pieces will highlight how relevant this material still is today.”

critical acclaim for Nicholas Phan

“a most impressive performance ... Phan is mesmerising” – *BBC Radio 3 CD Review*

“refinement and steel, rare among Britten’s recent tenors ... a first-class performance” – *BBC Music Magazine*

“an inviting, distinctive recording” – *Gramophone*

“a star in the making ... The voice is graceful, mellifluous and durable, but behind it lie sharp intelligence, poetic insight and a confident individuality” – *The Sunday Times*

summary

On *A Painted Tale*, his third solo album for AVIE, tenor **Nicholas Phan** turns to songs of the English Renaissance and Baroque by Blow, Dowland, Ferrabosco, Lanier and Purcell, in a program which tells a story of love gained and then lost.

promotion and marketing

- Print and online advertising in Gramophone, BBC Music Magazine, Early Music Today
- Priority for review in classical magazines, newspapers and e-zines, and specialty media such as Early Music Today
- Promotional videos <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXLA73K64Bk> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73VIFdriHDQ>
- E-blast to Avie mailing list (c. 6,000)

tracklist

1. **Thomas Morley** (1557/8 – 1602) *A Painted Tale* (2.39)
2. **Henry Purcell** (1659 – 95) *O solitude* (5.42)
3. **Robert Johnson** (1572/3 – 1637) *Have you seen but a bright Lily grow* (1.54)
4. **John Blow** (1649 – 1708) *Fairest work of happy nature* (3.23)
5. **Blow** *The Self Banished* (2.01)
6. **Nicholas Lanier** (1588 – 1666) *Fire, Fire* (1.52)
7. **Blow** *O turn not those fine eyes away* (3.17)
8. **Purcell** *Sweeter than roses* (3.21)
9. **Purcell** *She loves and she confesses too* (2.16)
10. **Lanier** *No more shall meads be deck’d with flowers* (7.00)
11. **John Dowland** (1563 – 1626) *My thoughts are winged with hopes* (2.34)
12. **Blow** *Of all the torments, all the cares* (3.57)
13. **Dowland** *Can she excuse my wrongs*
14. **Purcell** *Not all my torments* (2.48)
15. **Alfonso Ferrabosco** (1575 – 1628) *So, so Leave off this last lamenting kiss* (2.49)
16. **Dowland** *In darkness let me dwell*
17. **Dowland** *Now, O now I needs must part*
18. **Dowland** *Come Heavy Sleep*
19. **Lanier** *Stay, Silly Heart*
20. **Purcell** *Evening Hymn*

Recorded 21 & 22 October 2014 at Skywalker Sound, Marin County, CA
Producer, engineer and editing: Marlan Barry

also available

