



title: Songs for Strings: Arrangements of Dowland, Purcell, Elgar and others by Donald Fraser
artists: English Chamber Orchestra
 English Symphony Orchestra
 Donald Fraser, conductor
price: Full price
release date: 7 September 2018
selection number: AV 2391
bar code: 822252239126

about the release

In the 1990s, Donald Fraser scored a hit with his orchestral arrangement of Marin Marais' baroque classic *The Bells of St. Genevieve* which reached the Top 5 of Billboard's Classical Chart and remains a radio evergreen to this day. Numerous commissions for arrangements followed for musicians such as The King's Singers, Yehudi Menuhin

and the English Chamber Orchestra. In 2016, AVIE released Don's large-scale orchestration of Edward Elgar's *Piano Quintet* and choral version of *Sea Pictures*, which charted in the Top 10 of the UK Specialist Classical Chart. Don now returns to the art of arranging smaller scale, classic works by John Dowland, Henry Purcell, Antonio Vivaldi and others, including new versions of his own "Amen" from *A Christmas Symphony* which was written for and premiered by soprano Jessye Norman, a new re-mix of *The Bells of St. Genevieve* and orchestrations of four Elgar art songs that evoke the album's title, *Songs for Strings*.

critical acclaim for Donald Fraser's orchestration of Elgar's Piano Quintet and choral version of Sea Pictures (AV2362)
 "a revelation ... a triumph of transcription" – *Classical Music Magazine*, Premiere of the Year

"richly upholstered orchestration" – *Gramophone*

"remarkable ... beautifully realised ... It says a lot for Fraser's skills as an orchestrator" – *BBC Music Magazine*

summary

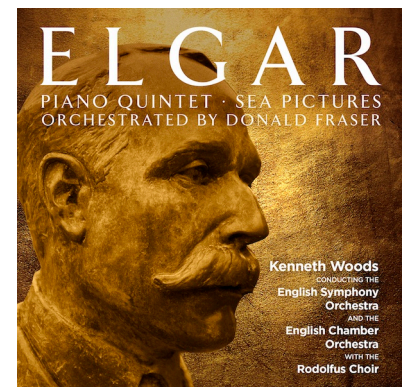
On *Songs for Strings*, Donald Fraser demonstrates his flair for the art of arranging, crafting beautiful new versions for string orchestra of classic works by John Dowland, Edward Elgar, Henry Purcell, Antonio Vivaldi and others.

tracklist

Songs for Strings: Arrangements of Dowland, Elgar, Purcell and others by Donald Fraser

- | | |
|---|---|
| Edward Elgar (1857 – 1934) | Franz Liszt (1811 – 1886) |
| 1. The Queen's Hall (4.02) | 8. Nuage Gris (Grey Clouds) (3.53) |
| John Dowland (1563 – 1626) | Alexander Scriabin (1872 – 1915) |
| 2. And Time Stands Still (3.31) | 9. Canon (3.56) |
| Henry Purcell (1659 – 1695) | Maurice Ravel (1875 – 1937) |
| 3. Ground in C (3.29) | 10. Valse (in the manner of Borodin) (3.04) |
| Antonio Lotti (1667 – 1740) | Edward Elgar (1857 – 1934) |
| 4. Crucifixus (3.15) | 11. Pleading (3.16) |
| Nicola Antonio Porpora (1686 – 1768) | 12. A Child Asleep (6.16) |
| 5. Fugue in G (3.22) | 13. Queen Mary's Lute Song (4.08) |
| Antonio Vivaldi (1678 – 1741) | Donald Fraser (b.) |
| 6. Largo from <i>Concerto for Two Cellos, RV 531</i> (3.57) | 14. Epilogue : Amen from <i>A Christmas Symphony</i> (4.25) |
| David Fraser, Piper to the Laird Lovat | Marin Marais (1656 – 1728) |
| 7. Lord Lovat's Lament (4.28) | 15. Sonnerie (4.36) |
| | Total time: 58.43 |

also available



Elgar Piano Quintet, Sea Pictures
 Orchestrated by Donald Fraser
 Kenneth Woods
 English Symphony Orchestra
 AND THE
 English Chamber
 Orchestra
 WITH THE
 Rodolfus Choir
 AV 2362

Recorded 5 April 2018, Abbey Road Studio 2, English String Orchestra (2 – 10, 14);
 31 July 2013, Abbey Road Studio 1, English Chamber Orchestra Tracks (1, 11 – 13);
 27 May 2018, The Barn Studio, Shirland, Illinois (15)
 Recording Producer: Donald Fraser
 Recording Engineer and Mastering: Simon Kiln

MARKETING AND PROMOTION

media targets

Classical, Radio

advertising

Gramophone, BBC Music Magazine, Facebook, Twitter

digital

Apple Music / iTunes feature placement; Spotify playlisting

reviews

Target Gramophone, BBC Music Magazine

airplay

Classic FM, NPR stations

key territories

USA, UK

listening link

tbc

lead / instant grat tracks

tbc

social media

Donald Fraser: Facebook – 775; YouTube – 101

AVIE Records: Facebook – 1,000; Twitter – 1,500

independent pr

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