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BENJAMIN BRITTEN

## Before life and after / Songs

Mark Padmore, Roger Vignoles

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It was on returning from a tour of the German concentration camps with Yehudi Menuhin, in 1945, that Britten finally realised his long-cherished project of setting to music the spiritual sonnets of John Donne (1572-1631). He succeeded admirably in conveying their skilful blend of passion and intellectual rigour.



### Artists

- Mark Padmore  
Tenor
- Roger Vignoles  
Piano

### Composers

- Benjamin Britten

## Contents

BENJAMIN BRITTEN [1913-1976]

### **The Holy Sonnets of John Donne, op.35 (1945)**

- 1. Oh my blacke Soule! (3'22)
- 2. Batter my heart (1'34)
- 3. O might those sighes and teares (3'15)
- 4. Oh, to vex me (1'15)
- 5. What if this present (3'16)
- 6. Since she whom I loved (3'29)
- 7. At the round earth's imagined corners (2'42)
- 8. Thou hast made me (1'39)
- 9. Death, be not proud (4'13)
- **A Morning Hymn** (Henry Purcell)(3'11)
- **Job's Curse** (Henry Purcell)(5'20)
- **An Evening Hymn** (Henry Purcell)(4'25)

### **Winter Words, op.52 (1953)**

- At Day-close in November (1'47)
- Midnight on the Great Western (4'44)
- Wagtail and Baby (2'18)
- The little old Table (1'28)
- The Choirmaster's Burial (4'02)

- Proud Songsters (1'14)
- At the Railway Station, Upway (3'00)
- Before Life and after (3'14)
- **I Wonder as I Wander** (folksong)(3'28)
- **Sail on, sail on** (folksong)(2'28)
- **The Miller of Dee** (folksong)(2'11)
- **At the mid hour of night** (folksong)(2'38)
- **There's none to soothe** (folksong)(1'51)