

**NEW RELEASE** NMC D112

## Benjamin Britten: Britten on Film

(1913-1976)



[www.nmcrec.co.uk](http://www.nmcrec.co.uk)



**Artists:** Simon Russell Beale *narrator*  
Mary Carewe *soprano*  
Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus, Choir of King Edward's School, Birmingham  
Martyn Brabbins *conductor*

**Cat No.:** NMC D112

**Dealer / RRP:** Full-Price (1CD)

**Total Duration:** 78'55

**Barcode:** 5023363011228

**Release Date:** March 2007

**Coal Face** (first recording); **Night Mail** (first complete recording)

**The Way to The Sea; Negroes; Peace of Britain**

**The Tocher (Rossini Suite); Telegrams; The King's Stamp**

**Men Behind The Meters; When you're feeling like expressing your affection**

- ♦ The first ever comprehensive collection of music written by Britten, working with WH Auden, for 1930's information films made by the GPO Film Unit and others.
- ♦ Shorter works which use well-known tunes such as the cabaret song *When you're feeling like expressing your affection*, the ballad *Around the Village Green* and an unashamedly slushy setting of the Victorian favourite *I dreamt that I dwelt in marble halls*.
- ♦ Includes music from the longer films; *Night Mail* (including the famous Auden poem), *The King's Stamp* and *The Way to the Sea*.
- ♦ Supported by the Britten Estate, this recording is historically important and features a comprehensive booklet with photographs and film stills.
- ♦ The scores for this recording were specially reconstructed from manuscript and other sources held at the Britten-Pears Library, by composers Joseph Phibbs and Lloyd Moore under the supervision of Colin Matthews, Executive Producer of NMC and Director of the Britten-Pears Estate.
- ♦ The disc features a new performing edition of *The Way to the Sea* along with a premiere recording of *Coal Face* and the first recording of the complete music to *Night Mail*.
- ♦ Features Simon Russell Beale as narrator, who is currently enjoying the role of King Arthur in Monty Python's award-winning show, *Spamalot*.

**Extensive media coverage expected: BBC Music Magazine to feature in February and March issues, Gramophone article planned, editorial in broadsheets and Classic FM Magazine, radio coverage being discussed (including Radio 4), specialist film publications to cover, more details TBC.**

**14 April 2007 - Study Day and concert: 'Britten in the 1930s' in the Purcell Room, South Bank Centre, London.**

BACK CATALOGUE: NMC D073 Britten's early score for Agatha Christie thriller *Love From A Stranger*

**NEW RELEASE** NMC D129 (Ancora)

## David Blake: Violin Concerto

(b1936)



[www.nmcrec.co.uk](http://www.nmcrec.co.uk)



**Artists:** Iona Brown *violin*  
Philharmonia Orchestra  
Norman del Mar *conductor*  
Teresa Cahill *soprano*\*  
David Blake *conductor*\*  
Northern Sinfonia\*

**Cat No.:** NMC D129 (Ancora)

**Dealer / RRP:** Mid-Price (1CD)

**Total Duration:** 54'08

**Barcode:** 5023363 012928

**Release Date:** March 2007

### **Violin Concerto; In Praise of Krishna\***

Supported by Arts Council England

*"NMC's Ancora series ... is to be welcomed without reservation"* BBC Music Magazine

- ◆ Previously available on Argo, this recording of works dating from the mid-1970's is re-released to mark the composer's 70th birthday.
- ◆ The Violin Concerto is a fundamentally lyrical work reflecting the composer's response to his first visit to Italy.
- ◆ *In Praise of Krishna* is a setting of religious poems of the Bengali Vaishnava sect describing a young woman's love affair with the god Krishna; Blake responds to the powerful sensuality of the poems with an exotic and beautiful language of his own.
- ◆ Edward Greenfield said of the original Argo release: *"a coupling of two works which in a lyrical post-Schoenbergian style communicate with a welcome warmth ... It would hardly be too much to say that Blake's Violin Concerto ... stands in the great line of British violin concertos from Elgar through Walton and Britten"*.
- ◆ Features internationally known artists, including Iona Brown for whom the Violin Concerto was written.

#### OTHER ANCORA TITLES AVAILABLE:

Thea Musgrave NMC D074; Hugh Wood NMC D082; D Matthews NMC D084; John Buller NMC D081  
Nigel Osborne NMC D087; John Casken NMC D086; A Goehr NMC D095; A Goehr NMC D096  
R Holloway NMC D097; Judith Weir NMC D090; C Matthews NMC D101; Robert Saxton NMC D102  
H Birtwistle NMC D088; John Casken NMC D113; Judith Weir NMC D106; Robert Simpson NMC D109  
Simon Bainbridge NMC D126; Nicholas Maw/Richard Rodney Bennett NMC D085