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8.572083

Playing Time
74:15

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In addition to his distinguished career as a pianist and conductor, Howard Blake is a popular and prolific composer who has received an OBE for services to music. Besides film scores (which include the extraordinarily successful and popular *The Snowman*), choral, orchestral and instrumental works, ballets and opera, his output includes much chamber music. This disc presents world première recordings of four important works; the virtuosic *Violin Sonata*, the hauntingly beautiful *Penillion*, the sunshine-filled *Piano Quartet* with its touching slow movement, and the *Jazz Dances*, which, in the composer's words, 'pay mischievous but affectionate homage to the rhythmic intricacies of popular dance forms'.

Howard
BLAKE
(b. 1938)

Music for Piano and Strings

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|-------|--|--------------|
| 1-3 | Violin Sonata, Op. 586 (1973/2007)† | 23:41 |
| 4-11 | Penillion for violin and piano, Op. 571 (1975/2005)† | 9:32 |
| 12-15 | Piano Quartet, Op. 179 (1974)* | 27:14 |
| 16-24 | Jazz Dances for violin and piano, Op. 520a (1976/2008)† | 13:48 |

WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDINGS

Madeleine Mitchell, Violin† • Howard Blake, Piano
Jack Rothstein, Violin* • Kenneth Essex, Viola
Peter Willison, Cello

A complete track list can be found on page 2 of the booklet

Recorded at Potton Hall, Westleton, Suffolk, on 24th and 25th May, 2008 (tracks 1-3);
on 13th July, 2008 (tracks 4-11); and on 14th July, 2008 (tracks 16-24)

Producer and engineer: Michael Ponder

Tracks 12-15 recorded at Conway Hall, London, on 9th October, 1974

Producer and engineer: Adam Skeaping

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Cover painting of Howard Blake by John Bratby (1928-92)

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