NEW RELEASE NMC D155

Richard Rodney Bennett: Songs Before Sleep

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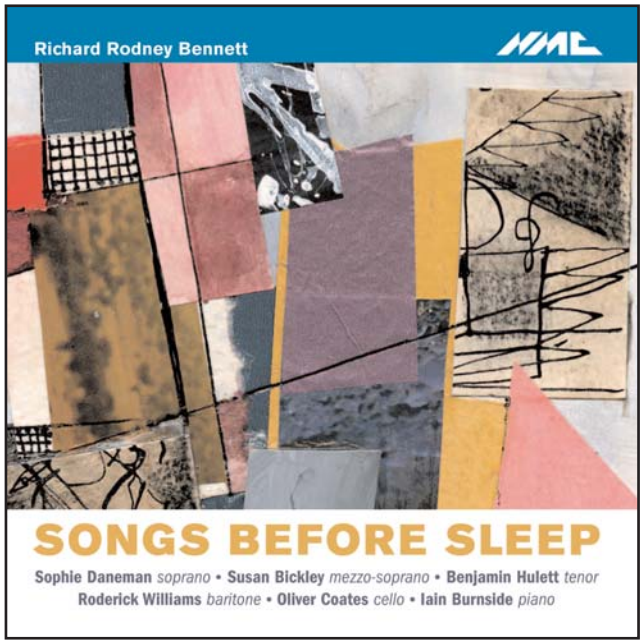


Artists:	**Sophie Daneman** soprano
	Susan Bickley mezzo-soprano
	Benjamin Hulett tenor
	Roderick Williams baritone
	Oliver Coates cello
	Iain Burnside piano
Cat No.:	NMC D155
RRP:	full-price
Total Duration:	70'35
Barcode:	5023363015523
Release Date:	6 September 2010
Packaging:	1 CD - standard jewel case

- Bennett is renowned for his film scores and his jazz performance as much as for his challenging concert works. His film music includes scores for *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.
- Richard Rodney Bennett has long had a private passion for making collages (and knitting!) and the cover image on this CD is one of his creations, currently displayed at an exhibition of his work in Chelsea (2nd June to 10th September) http://www.nightingaleproject.org/
- Born in Broadstairs, Kent, in 1936, he has lived in New York City since 1979.
- Richard Rodney Bennett received a CBE in 1977, and was knighted in 1998.
- Bennett studied with Pierre Boulez in Paris.

This new recording spans five decades of Bennett's song-writing, cherry-picking some of his most accessible and lyrical pieces, from the melodic Songs Before Sleep, performed by Roderick Williams, to the 1920s dance rhythms of *A History of the Thé Dansant*, the dramatic and rarely-performed *Tom O'Bedlam's Song* for tenor and cello (written for Peter Pears) and the enchanting *A Garland for Marjory Fleming*.

A wonderful recording, stunningly performed by a collection of internationally acclaimed soloists.

TRACKLISTING

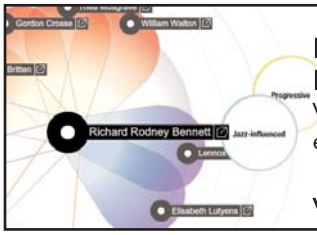
1-5 **A Garland for Marjory Fleming** Sophie Daneman soprano Iain Burnside piano	9'47	19 **Tom O'Bedlam's Song** Benjamin Hulett tenor Oliver Coates cello	13'09
6-11 **Songs before Sleep** Roderick Williams baritone Iain Burnside piano	15'24	20 **this is the garden** Sophie Daneman soprano Iain Burnside piano	4'04
12-14 **A History of the Thé Dansant** Susan Bickley mezzo-soprano Iain Burnside piano	9'10	21 **Voyage** Susan Bickley mezzo-soprano Iain Burnside piano	5'55
15-18 **Dream-Songs** Susan Bickley mezzo-soprano Iain Burnside piano	10'00	22 **A Song at Evening** Sophie Daneman soprano Iain Burnside piano	3'06

SOME OTHER NMC RECORDINGS FEATURING MUSIC BY RICHARD RODNEY BENNETT

R R Bennett: Spells NMC D085
'This is sheerly brilliant writing and the Academy trounces the challenge. [Jane Manning in Spells] is in splendid voice' Music Web

R R Bennett: The Return of the Soldier NMC D073
'Polished performances hail from the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Jac van Steen.' The Times

R R Bennett: Flowers of the Forest NMC D142
'This is unquestionably the most important brass band CD release of 2008.' 4 Bars Rest



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RICHARD RODNEY BENNETT
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