

---

# The Prince Consort

## Selected Reviews

---

### **BRAHMS, STEPHEN HOUGH *OTHER LOVE SONGS* (LINN RECORDS CKD 382), JUNE 2011**

"...the performers, including Hough himself as one of the pianists, do [the songs] proud...soprano Anna Leese [is] bright and vibrant of tone...Jennifer Johnston offers a delightful comic cameo as the feisty maid...The *Liebeslieder* are enjoyable, with a splendid bite in the more vigorous numbers" – *Richard Wigmore, Gramophone*

"The Prince Consort, a flexible group of five singers and pianist Alisdair Hogarth (here joined by pianist Philip Fowke), deliver a performance of sparkle and precision, restoring muscularity to Brahms's charming part-songs. In addition they perform Stephen Hough's cycle *Other Love Songs*, commissioned by the Consort as a touching companion to the Brahms. Using texts by Claude McKay, Julian of Norwich, AE Housman and others, Hough celebrates other kinds of love, religious, gay and in the broadest sense fraternal. The piano writing, not surprisingly given Hough's day job, is original and beguiling, the performances first rate." – *Fiona Maddocks, The Observer*

"...such fresh-toned performances by the five singers of the Prince Consort, with Philip Fowke and the group's usual pianist Alisdair Hogarth the duet accompanists" – *Andrew Clements, The Guardian*

### **STEPHEN HOUGH *OTHER LOVE SONGS* (WORLD PREMIÈRE, WIGMORE HALL, LONDON, JUNE 2011)**

"Other Love Songs is a thrilling addition to its genre...the Prince Consort are already giving it dedicated advocacy, and their recording of the work...is available now. On the basis of tonight's performance, I heartily recommend it." – *Adrian Horsewood, Music OMH*

### **OXFORD LIEDER FESTIVAL (OCTOBER 2010)**

"The Prince Consort's premiere of Stephen Hough's *Herbstlieder* was intimate and memorable."

- *Fiona Maddocks, The Observer – 'The Best Classical Music of 2010'*

"it was a substantial new song cycle which grabbed attention[...]in a stimulating concert by the Prince Consort."

- *Fiona Maddocks, The Observer*

"Rorem's setting of Shakespeare's Sonnet No 147 (My Love is as a Fever) was a world premiere, a duet of tense, obsessing motifs shared eloquently by the voices of Imbrailo and the tenor Andrew Staples. They were joined by the soprano Anna Leese and the fine mezzo Jennifer Johnston for the Schumann that framed the evening so rewardingly." – *Hilary Finch, The Times*

### **BRAHMS *LIEBESLIEDER* (WIGMORE HALL, LONDON, JANUARY 2009)**

"potently seductive... Stylistically and tonally, the blend was sensational... A vivid, compelling performance, and one that betrayed more of the composer's character than he could have planned." – *Anna Picard, The Independent on Sunday*

### **ROREM "ON AN ECHOING ROAD" (LINN RECORDS CKD 342), OCTOBER 2009**

"The five singers are a vocally attractive lot and truly sensitive both to the texts and to the ways in which Rorem's music illuminates those texts... These performances, cannily sequenced, are a model of how these songs should be sung... Rorem's piano writing ... demands artistry and technical skill. Hogarth supplies it unstintingly."

– *Raymond S. Tuttle, International Record Review, Outstanding Award February 2010*

"...an outstanding recording..." – *Anthony Burton, BBC Music Magazine, February 2010*

"...this is a most attractive disc... clear and intelligent way with words." – *John Steane, The Gramophone, Editor's Choice February 2010*

---

# The Prince Consort

## Selected Reviews

---

"Another surprise – and a really rather wonderful one, too... The Prince Consort makes a brilliant case for this sometimes elusive composer on a CD which combines thought and belief, consistently enchanting the ear." – *Classic fM, February 2010*

"The fine singers of the Prince Consort and pianist Alisdair Hogarth have just released a lovely selection of Rorem's songs... It's partly the variety of voices, timbres and combinations that they bring to bear in their selection of Rorem's songs that makes this such a delight... Deceptively simple pleasures, 29 songs only 2 of which break the 3 minute barrier, and it's an excellent recording."  
– *Andrew McGregor, BBC Radio 3 - CD Review, November 2009*

"The performances catch every drop of that naturalness... it crystallises its essence perfectly."  
– *Andrew Clements, The Guardian, November 2009*

### ROREM (OXFORD LIEDER RECITAL, OCTOBER 2009)

"...four gifted vocalists... the lyric flow was usually guaranteed when sopranos Leese and Johnston intertwined, as in Colette's *On an Echoing Road*, gently supported by rippling arch patterns from Alisdair Hogarth's supportive piano. ... moving..." – *Geoff Brown, The Times*

"The outstanding singers of the Prince Consort caught the sense of accumulating weight of experience perfectly."  
– *Andrew Clements, The Guardian*

"This is a lively, flexible ensemble which brings together some of the most exciting young singers around. ... Their fresh, vivacious approach suits Rorem's music well..." – *Anne Ozorio, Opera Today*

### PRESS RELEASE

"Now, with the upcoming release of a CD, plans for a documentary DVD, and an ambitious commissioning programme underway, the group looks set for major things." – *Paul Cott, BBC Music Magazine*

### BRITTEN, SCHUBERT, SCHUMANN, STRAUSS (THE PURCELL ROOM, LONDON, OCTOBER 2005)

"beautifully balanced and blended" – *Musical Pointers*

"I am delighted to have heard The Prince Consort. The conviction that comes across from the splendid singers makes me long to hear more, especially at the end of an evening that seems to have ended almost before it began..." – *Peter Katin*

[www.theprinceconsort.com](http://www.theprinceconsort.com)