

A MIDST THE SHADES



Henry Purcell
Amidst the shades 3'
Oh Solitude 6'
Music for a while 4'

John Dowland
Fantasia P.5 2.5'
Fantasia P.6 2.5'

Errollyn Wallen
The Shadow of my Sorrow 3'

Robert Johnson
Full Fathom Five 3'
Care charming sleep 5'
Mrs Winter's Jump 2'
(Dowland lute solo)
Where the bee sucks 2'

John Dowland
Semper Dowland semper Dolens 7'

INTERVAL

Corpus Cristi Carol (anon) 3'

John Dowland
Preludium 1.5'
Time stands still 5'
Can she excuse my wrongs 2'
Flow my tears 4'

Cheryl Frances-Hoad
They bore him bare-faced on the bier 2.5'

John Dowland
The Earl of Derby's Galliard 2'
Sorrow stay 3'
Now oh now I needs must part/The Frog Galliard 4'
In darkness let me dwell 4'
Come again 3'

RUBY HUGHES soprano
JONAS NORDBERG lute
MIME BRINKMANN gamba (optional)

INTRODUCTION

RUBY HUGHES



It's hugely exciting to be releasing my second disc together with Jonas Nordberg and Mime Brinkmann. I have always found the sonic constellation of lute, voice and gamba in this trio particularly inspiring, and it's been a joy to experiment together with colour and nuance through improvisation over the years. The possibilities for spontaneity and creativity in the music we have chosen feel boundless.

Our deep connection and love of Elizabethan music was the catalyst for building this program, especially the contemplative and melancholic songs of John Dowland. From this starting point we then chose and performed music by Robert Johnson and John Danyel and commissioned three composers, Errollyn Wallen, Deborah Pritchard and Cheryl Frances Hoad to write for us choosing texts by William Shakespeare.

Jonas and I had been struck by the the beauty of the anonymous medieval *Corpus Christi Carol* and we felt it really belonged together spiritually on this record. Combining some of Purcell's intimate songs was also a must atmospherically and *Amidst the shades* and *Here the deities approve* were a revelation to discover.

We hope that bringing together this rich tapestry of songs will continue to inspire and celebrate music for lute and voice building on this precious legacy.

We have also devised the programme for voice and lute as much of the repertoire works just as beautifully in duo form.



REVIEWS



"She has a warm, almost mellow voice, well suited to this enterprising selection of 17th-century songs [...] to all of them Ruby Hughes brings an exemplary understanding and stylishness."

Richard Lawrence, *Gramophone Magazine* (Editor's Choice)

"The outstanding singer Ruby Hughes gives sensual luster to the whimpering, sobbing and sighing music by Francesca Caccini, Barbara Strozzi, Lucrezia Vizzana and Claudia Sessa."

Martin Nyström, *Dagens Nyheter* (5*)

"Hughes manages to make this world so much her own. I love the flexibility of her voice, the chameleon quality ... she gets the operatic dimensions of the music beautifully. It's so easy to overload emotions but she never overcooks it.... Dido's lament is beautifully sung. Its a young portrayal of Dido and there's an innocence here which you don't normally get and which I found intensely moving. This isn't a performance of grief, it's really internalised."

Record Review on *BBC Radio 3* with Andrew Macgregor and Alexandra Coghlann

"As for the performance, this is just plain gorgeous singing. Hughes especially stands out with sublime and wondrously shaped phrasing of 'Evening Hymn' and 'The Blessed Virgin's Expostulation'."

R. Moore, *American Record Guide*

