

## ECHO

Ruby Hughes  
Huw Watkins

**Recorded for BIS in Spring of 2021. Due to be released in the autumn of 2022**

### J.S Bach 15'

Sarabande -partita no.4 BWV 828  
*Gedenke doch, mein geist* arr. Britten  
Sarabande -French suite no.3 BWV 814  
*Komm, süsßer Tod* arr. Britten  
Corrente\* -Partita no.6 BWV 830  
*Liebste Herr Jesu* arr. Britten



### Huw Watkins

*Echo* for voice and piano 15'  
(Premiered at Carnegie Hall in 2017. World premier recording)

### H. Purcell 11'

By beauteous softness arr. Ades  
Music for a while  
An evening Hymn arr. Ades

### Folk/Contemporary set

*I wonder as I wander* arr. Britten  
**C. Frances-Hoad** *Lament*  
*How sweet the answer* arr. Britten  
**D. Pritchard** *The world*  
*Dafydd y Garreg Wen* –arr. Britten  
**E. Wallen** *Peace on Earth*

RUBY HUGHES INTRODUCTION FOR HER DISC ECHO.

The inspiration for this recording came about through my dear friend and collaborator Huw Watkins who wrote the song cycle 'Echo' for me to perform at Carnegie Hall. I was drawn deeply to his setting of Rosetti's poem Echo, how the voice and spirit of a loved one would return in dreams. I began thinking about how my favourite composers across the ages have spoken and echoed one another lovingly in their music. These echoes have had such a lasting impact on our culture, sometimes in the most nuanced and unconscious way.

It's enlightening for me to hear how Britten and Bach's music has had such an impact on Huw Watkins and Cheryl Frances Hoad. Then to sing their music, to sense these kindred spirit 'echoes' helps me imaginatively and stylistically. The same spiritual awareness is there too I hope in our interpretations of Britten's realisations of Bach and our chosen folksongs

along with Ades and Tippett's Purcell realisations.

I have always loved the sound of Bach on the piano. Maybe it was growing up with Richter playing his preludes and fugues on our record player at home that planted the seed. And somehow this has become another nostalgic echo, a source of great comfort.

Deborah has taken Echo as a concept and experimented with the resonance of the piano, and Errollyn's song conjures such peace as does the Bach. Her musical influences are boundless much like all the composers on this disc.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Huw for playing as if improvising, with such freshness and ease and for writing such magical songs for me.