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EM Records is the recording arm of the English Music Festival (EMF) and, as such, fulfils the EMF's aim of celebrating overlooked British composers throughout the centuries, with a strong focus on the early twentieth century. With a combination of live and studio recordings, EM Records commits to recorded format some of the treasures that the EMF unearths, each disc containing at least one World Première recording.

It is easy to overlook, or at least to underestimate, the revivifying effect of Parry's work. His music was a refreshing, invigorating contrast to the reactionary environment that prevailed in British music through the first half of the nineteenth century. This new voice stemmed largely from the wider, continental European influences to which Parry was exposed as a student of Edward Dannreuther: a champion of Brahms, Liszt and Wagner, Dannreuther instituted a series of chamber music concerts at his London home, which provided both a stimulus for Parry's own important assays into the genre of chamber music and a vehicle for their first performances.

This conspectus of Parry's complete works for violin and piano ranges from the early and unpublished Freundschaftslieder of 1872 to the Suite no.2 of 1907, and will therefore provide a fascinating chart of their composer's progress from a young man, eager to hone his craft, to an established and respected musician, academic and teacher. His music for this genre expresses a wide range of emotions: they are wistful and elegiac; beautifully and memorably lyrical; exuberantly energetic; and full-bloodedly and assuredly celebratory.

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