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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 – the Golden Renaissance of English Music. EM Records resolves to bring this glorious music to a worldwide audience by committing to recorded format some of the treasures that the EMF unearths, with each disc containing at least one World Première recording.

A generous-minded leader; a superb military strategist; or an opportunistic villain: all these interpretations – and more – may be brought to bear on Richard III, one of the most controversial monarchs in British history. The English Music Festival has recently commissioned four new works for solo violin from some of the UK's foremost composers which use as their inspiration the life and historical perspectives of Richard III; and, following their World Première performances at the EMF's Autumn Yorkshire Festival, EM Records plans to commit these engaging and thought-provoking works to disc. The recording will feature the acclaimed violinist Rupert Marshall-Luck with Em Marshall-Luck the reciter for one work, and will be made in the Church of St Mary and St Alkeda in Middleham – the church at which Richard III himself worshipped during his periods of residence at Middleham Castle. The four works are all vividly coloured and energetic in their portrayal of their subject, with virtuosic technique and a full tonal palette enabling an immediacy of depiction. From the picture-painting of Paul Lewis's *Threnody*, through the Shakespeare-inspired *Tenebrae* by Francis Pott and the powerful setting of Swinburne that makes up Richard Pantcheff's Suite to Paul Carr's hauntingly beautiful Sonatina, these works engage, stimulate and delight the listener.

We are inviting music enthusiasts to contribute to the success of this exciting and groundbreaking new recording by becoming subscribers. For a suggested minimum donation of £50, supporters will receive the following:

- A mention as a named subscriber in the CD booklet
- A free pair of tickets to the launch event
- A complimentary signed copy of the CD immediately upon its release

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