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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.

RAWSTHORNE: THE COMPLETE WORKS FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO

Alan Rawsthorne (1905–1971) was a significant composer of his generation who developed a very personal and unmistakable harmonic language together with a markedly constructive approach to form. Our disc presents the complete music by Rawsthorne for violin and piano, including the *Concertante* (the first work of his to be published, in 1937) and the masterly Sonata of 1958. Also included on the disc are the World Première recordings of two early, unpublished sonatas, composed for the violinist Jessie Hinchliffe, whom Rawsthorne married in 1934; whilst containing much beautiful and characteristically original music, the second movement of the earlier sonata displays an unbridled, youthful exuberance with even a hint of jazz. Also featured on the disc, and composed likewise for Jessie Hinchliffe at about the same time as the sonatas, is *Pierrette* – a delightful character piece, in the later orchestrated version of which it was included in the score for *Uncle Silas*. Finally, a significant composition of Rawsthorne's early maturity is the *Theme and Variations for Two Violins*, written in 1937, the first performance of which received critical acclaim important in establishing the composer's career. Bringing early, previously unrecorded works together with those of Rawsthorne's established repertoire makes this an important and fascinating release.

We are inviting music enthusiasts to contribute to the success of this exciting and groundbreaking new recording by becoming subscribers. For a 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 copy of the CD immediately upon its release

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