

Malcolm Hawkins – Vol 1



O Creator Spirit;

The Merry-go-round; The Golden Fountain; The Stone Angel;
The Damask Rose; Rainbow Arc;
Four Carols; Imprisoned; The Riders; Rosamundi; Salvia Blue; In Brighter Sky;
*Cantata – Martha and Lazarus

Godwine Choir/

Ieuan Jones, harp/

Rosamund Hawkins String Quartet/

Alex Davan Wetton, music director/

Hilary Davan Wetton, conductor/

- * Paul Reeves, baritone/
- * Orpheus Sinfonia/
- * Brighton Festival Choir/
- * James Morgan conductor

Claudio CC6049-2 [64'15"]

Here is the first volume in what one hopes will be a series of recordings of the music of this gifted British composer (born 1944), whose output – on the basis of this initial collection – would appear to be wholly musical in its creative spur and eminently practical in terms of performing demands.

Hawkins is a clearly genuine creative figure, firmly stemming from what one might term the late 20th-century British tradition, and one whose expressive direct-ness of utterance is wholly admirable – practical, effective and written with considerable technical and practical command.

The largest work here is the cantata Martha and Lazarus, presented in a very good live recording, which captures admirably what one might term as the 'wholeness' of Hawkins' conception in a fully committed performance that makes a notable impact.

The collection of shorter choral pieces, ranging widely in character and expressive impact, is compelling in its delineation of a creative gift rarely encountered amongst Hawkins' contemporaries, and wholly welcome in this day and age. The recording quality, as always from this source, is very good indeed; one's only caveat being the repetition of several lines of text in the accompanying booklet. Strongly recommended.

Robert Matthew-Walker