



New Release - Press Information



ARTIST(S): Goldstone & Clemmow

COMPOSER(S): Holst, Elgar, Bainton and Bury

TITLE: British Music for Piano Duo

CATALOGUE NUMBER: DDV24154 [Bar Code 0809730415425]

RELEASE DATE: 25th June 2012

PRICE POINT: Single CD/Standard Case/Mid Price (UK Dealer £5.55)

Track Listing:

Edward Elgar: Serenade in E minor Op. 20 (Composer's version for piano duet); **Frank Bury:** Prelude and Fugue in E flat major – for two pianos; **Edgar Bainton:** Miniature Suite – for piano duet; **Gustav Holst:** Elegy (In Memoriam William Morris) from Symphony in F ("The Cotswolds") – the composer's own version for two pianos; The Planets – the composer's original version for two pianos



Repertoire/Product Information:

THE EDITION

The existence of **Edward Elgar's** own piano duet version of his *Serenade* in E minor for string orchestra seems to have escaped the notice of even some Elgar experts, but in fact both versions were published in Leipzig in 1893, the year after the original composition.

Frank Bury was born in Shropshire in 1910. After reading music at Cambridge University he went on to the Royal College of Music in London, where he studied conducting with Malcolm Sargent and composition with Gordon Jacob. The life of this gifted musician came to a premature end in 1944 when, as a commando, he was killed during the airborne landings in Normandy. The present work, was written in the mid to late nineteen thirties. Goldstone & Clemmow gave the first documented public performance in 1987, appropriately in Shropshire, and Goldstone edited it for publication. This was the first recording of any work by this fine composer, who unhappily was not destined to fulfill his gifts.

Edgar L. Bainton, was a London-born composer who had overlapped with Holst at the Royal College of Music - they both studied with Stanford. A prolific composer (celebrated, at the Three Choir Festivals for example, in the twenties but later unjustly neglected in Britain), he was also an inspirational teacher, especially in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and then in Sydney, to where he emigrated with his family in 1934 (the year of the deaths of Holst and Elgar), to become Director of the N.S.W. State Conservatorium. The delightful *Miniature Suite* (1922) for piano duet demonstrates a warm, unassuming nature and a quirkily melodious style.

During **Gustav Holst's** student years a literary and debating society was formed at the Royal College, and Holst and his friend Vaughan Williams became avid participants. Thomas Dunhill kept the minutes. Members explored various current literary and philosophical subjects, including "the socialism of William Morris". Holst was very much influenced by this writer and artist (1834-1896); he set several poems by Morris to music. When writing his Symphony in F major entitled "The Cotswolds" in 1899-1900, Holst dedicated the elegiac second movement to the memory of his hero. The complete four-movement work was performed in 1902 but the performance was ill-prepared and the symphony has fallen from the repertoire. Holst's own two-piano version of the symphony remained unpublished at the time of this recording.

It would be difficult to name a large-scale orchestral work by a British composer with more widespread and lasting popularity than Holst's suite *The Planets*. Surprisingly, though, it was performed in this form, for two pianos, before the public heard it with orchestra. The orchestral version was heard by an invited audience in September 1918, Boult conducting the New Queen's Hall Orchestra, but its first public performance, complete, was not until October 1920, Albert Coates conducting the London Symphony Orchestra – both in London's Queen's Hall.

This recording was previously released on Olympia but has been completely remastered for this edition, and is released on Divine Art "Diversions".



Artist Information:

With CDs approaching forty in number and a busy concert schedule stretching back more than a quarter of a century, the British piano duo Goldstone and Clemmow is firmly established as a leading force. Described by *Gramophone* as 'a dazzling husband and wife team', by *International Record Review* as 'a British institution in the best sense of the word', and by *The Herald*, Glasgow, as 'the UK's pre-eminent two-piano team', internationally known artists Anthony Goldstone and Caroline Clemmow formed their duo in 1984 and married in 1989. Their extremely diverse activities in two-piano and piano-duet recitals and double concertos, taking in major festivals, have sent them all over the British Isles as well as to Europe, the Middle East and several times to the U.S.A., where they have received standing ovations and such press accolades as 'revelations such as this are rare in the concert hall these days' (*Charleston Post and Courier*). In their refreshingly presented concerts they mix famous masterpieces and fascinating rarities, which they frequently unearth themselves, into absorbing and hugely entertaining programmes; their numerous B.B.C. broadcasts have often included first hearings of unjustly neglected works, and their equally enterprising and acclaimed commercial recordings include many world premières.

Having presented the complete duets of Mozart for the bicentenary, they decided to accept the much greater challenge of performing the vast quantity of music written by Schubert specifically for four hands at one piano. This they have repeated several times in mammoth seven-concert cycles, probably a world first in their completeness (including works not found in the collected edition) and original recital format. *The Musical Times* wrote of this venture: 'The Goldstone/Clemmow performances invited one superlative after another.' The complete cycle (as a rare bonus including as encores Schumann's eight Schubert-inspired Polonaises) was recorded on seven CDs, 'haunted with the spirit of Schubert' – *Luister*, The Netherlands.

Additional Details & Marketing:

The CD will be fully serviced to all UK classical music press and radio.

Advertising will include major classical music magazines and publications.

For more details, and to request a review sample, please contact John Cronin at Music & Media Consulting Limited.