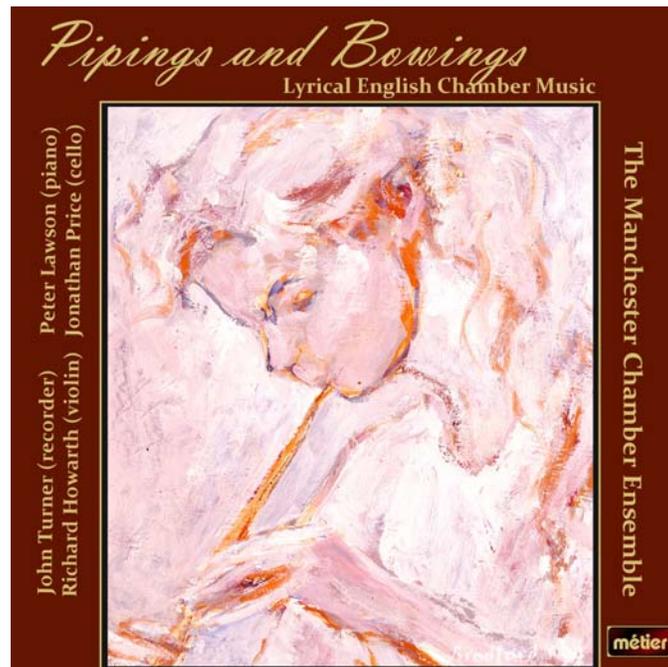




New Release - Press Information



- ARTIST(S):** John Turner (recorder); Peter Lawson (piano); Richard Howarth (violin); Jonathan Price (cello); Manchester Chamber Ensemble
- COMPOSER(S):** Michael Hurd (1928-2006); Robin Milford (1903-1959) Dick Blackford (b. 1936)
- TITLE:** Pipings and Bowings – Lyrical English Chamber Music
- CATALOGUE NUMBER:** MSV28522 [Bar Code 0809730852220]
- RELEASE DATE:** 19th September 2011
- PRICE POINT:** Single CD/Full Price [UK Dealer £7.95]

Track Listing:

Hurd: Sonata for Violin & Piano (1979 - revised 1985); Five Preludes for Piano 91989); Sonatina for Recorder and Piano (1964 – revised 2002); Three-Piece Suite for Recorder and String Quartet (2004); **Milford:** Prelude Op. 92 for Violin, Cello & Piano (c. 1948); Three Airs Op. 109 for Recorder & Piano (1956); Fantasia in B minor Op. 74 for String Quartet (1945); Sonatina in F major Op. 107 for Recorder & Piano (1956); **Blackford:** Concerto for Recorder and String Quartet (2007)



Repertoire/Product Information:

As a sequel to MSV28520 (Music by Veale and Crawford) here we have a lovely disc of lyrical, pastoral and unashamedly traditional music by Michael Hurd, Robin Milford and Richard Blackford, for recorder, violin and piano and string quartet. Performed by John Turner (recorder), Richard Howarth (violin), Peter Lawson (piano) and the Manchester Chamber Ensemble.

MICHAEL HURD was born in Gloucester in 1928. He received his main musical education at Pembroke College, Oxford, studying under Sir Thomas Armstrong and Dr. Bernard Rose. After six years on the teaching staff of the Royal Marines School of Music (during which time he studied composition under Sir Lennox Berkeley) he settled in Hampshire, where he worked as a freelance composer, author, and lecturer. His books range from the educational (such as *The Oxford Junior Companion to Music*) to the biographical (including studies of Rutland Boughton, Ivor Gurney and Vincent Novello). He wrote the New Grove article on the music of Robin Milford. Michael Hurd's output includes opera, choral, orchestral and a small quantity of chamber works. His many "pop" cantatas, beginning in 1966 with *Jonah-Man Jazz*, have delighted children all over the world. He died in 2006.

ROBIN MILFORD was born in Oxford in 1903, the elder son of Sir Humphrey Milford, the titular Publisher of the Oxford University Press and the founder, in 1923, of its Music Department. He was educated at Rugby School (where his instruments were the piano and the flute, the latter of which was to figure extensively in his output), and the Royal College of Music, studying composition under both Holst and Vaughan Williams, the latter becoming, with his one-time near neighbour Gerald Finzi, a close and valued friend. Many of Milford's early compositions, published by Oxford University Press, catered for amateur choral societies, but his output extended to most genres, including two unperformed operas, *Vertue* and *The Scarlet Letter*, a symphony, a violin concerto, large scale sonatas for violin and flute, and numerous orchestral and chamber works, in addition to a large quantity of songs and piano and organ music. Arguably he was at his best as a miniaturist, where his gift for memorable melody was most apparent, and he showed a distinct fondness for "neo-baroque" turns of phrase and cadences. Throughout his life Milford suffered from clinical depression and a severe lack of musical self-confidence, exacerbated by the accidental death in a road accident of his only son Barnaby in 1941, and later, in 1959, by the remaindering of much of his music by his principal publisher. He took his own life, with an aspirin overdose, on 29th December 1959.

DICK BLACKFORD was born in Bristol in 1936, and studied composition under Humphrey Procter-Gregg and Christopher Edmunds at Manchester University before embarking on a teaching career spanning 36 years. During this time he constantly supplied compositions for pupils, friends and local musicians. In 1995 he retired from his post as Head of Music at York Sixth Form College in order to devote his time to composition. Since then many commissions have come his way, including two Overtures, *Marinus* and *Scorpio*, performed and recorded by the York Guildhall Orchestra under Simon Wright, a string *Serenade*, a *Trio* for clarinet violin and piano, an unaccompanied *Mass* for the Chapter House Choir of York Minster, and a cantata *The Prophet*. He has written concertos for piano, harpsichord, clarinet, trumpet and cello, as well as a *Serenata Concertante* for two horns and orchestra.

His published works include (beside the *Clarinet Concerto*), a trio for woodwind instruments, a *Sinfonia Concertante* for solo woodwind and orchestra, books of madrigals, and several unaccompanied carols for choir, one of which was performed by the Choir of King's College Cambridge in its Annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.



Artist Information:

John Turner is one of the leading recorder players of today. Born in Stockport, he was Senior Scholar in Law at Fitzwilliam College Cambridge before pursuing a legal career, acting for many distinguished musicians and musical organisations (including the Halle Orchestra, the Royal Northern College of Music and the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain), alongside his many musical activities. These included numerous appearances and recordings with David Munrow's Early Music Consort of London, the Academy of Ancient Music, the English Chamber Orchestra, the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields and the English Baroque Soloists.

Peter Lawson was born in Manchester and studied there with Derrick Wyndham and Sulamita Aronovsky. He now combines a busy performing career with teaching at Chetham's School of Music and the RNCM. Peter has appeared as soloist with most British orchestras, given concerts in Europe, Russia and Japan and broadcast regularly on BBC Radio 3. Peter's commercial recordings reflect his passion for 20th century and contemporary music. They include CDs of *Satie* (for EMI), 2 volumes of *American Piano Sonatas* for Virgin Classics and Michael Nyman's *The Piano Concerto* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Richard Howarth, after studying at the Royal College of Music in London, worked with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra and as Leader of the Ulster Orchestra before becoming Leader of Manchester Camerata. He has been a guest leader with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, the BBC Scottish and Welsh Symphony Orchestras, the BBC Philharmonic, the Halle, Orchestra of St John's Smith Square, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, East of England Orchestra and Bournemouth Sinfonietta. Richard directs Manchester Chamber Ensemble and is a member of Trio Melzi with cellist Jonathan Price and pianist Sarah Beth Briggs. In recent years Richard has been in increasing demand as a conductor. He has conducted Manchester Camerata, the Ulster Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, the London, Scottish and Manchester Concert Orchestras and, from the violin, has directed Manchester Camerata and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. Richard coaches orchestras at the Royal Northern College of Music and Chetham's School of Music.

The ***Manchester Chamber Ensemble*** was formed in 2007 drawing on the cream of chamber music specialists in the North West of England who play regularly with fine chamber orchestras such as Manchester Camerata. Sarah Whittingham – violin, Richard Williamson – viola, and Jonathan Price – cello, are all highly experienced chamber musicians who appear regularly with several other similar ensembles and orchestras. Manchester Chamber Ensemble has appeared at important venues in the region including The Bridgewater Hall and The Brindley in Runcorn. Its flexibility enables the performance of a wide range of music requiring any combination of instruments from trios to nonets. Collaborating with guest artists is an important part of the group's development. Pianist Martin Roscoe, harpist Catrin Finch and recorder virtuoso John Turner are among the list. The ensemble has a commitment to promote new music and have several recording projects are in the pipeline.

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.