

Vaughan Williams's first symphony *A Sea Symphony* displays an epic self-confidence in handling large orchestral forces and setting words to music. Walt Whitman's words had been set by Holst and Harty and inspired orchestral works by Delius. The American poet provided a rich vein of inspiration to Vaughan Williams. The Romance *The Lark Ascending*, originally for violin and piano, was orchestrated in 1920 and has become one of the composer's best-loved works.

## RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (1872-1958)

### A SEA SYMPHONY

(Symphony No.1) for soprano, baritone, chorus & orchestra

Words by Walt Whitman

- |        |   |       |
|--------|---|-------|
| 1. I   | <b>A SONG FOR ALL SEAS, ALL SHIPS</b> (Moderato maestoso - Allegro)** | 17.41 |
| 2. II  | <b>ON THE BEACH AT NIGHT, ALONE</b> (Largo sostenuto)+                | 10.14 |
| 3. III | <b>SCHERZO: THE WAVES</b> (Allegro brillante)                         | 7.34  |
| 4. IV  | <b>THE EXPLORERS</b> (Grave e molto adagio - Adagio animato)**        | 27.25 |
| 5.     | <b>THE LARK ASCENDING</b><br>Romance for violin & orchestra°          | 14.33 |

Total 77.32

Sarah Fox *soprano*\*, Mark Stone *baritone*\*, James Ehnes *violin*°

Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra & Choir · Choir master: Ian Tracy

Conductor: Andrew Manze



Artist biographies can be found at  
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