



**Composers:** Penelope Thwaites (b.1944)

**Title:** **Gardens, Fables, Prisons, Dreams**

**Artists:** Penelope Thwaites, Benjamin Frith *piano*,  
Laurence Ungless *double bass*,  
Tippett Quartet  
(John Mills, Jeremy Isaac *violin*,  
Lydia Lowndes-Northcott *viola*,  
Bozidar Vukotic *cello*)

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**SOMM RECORDINGS**  
SOMMCD 0672

**Gardens, Fables, Prisons, Dreams**  
Chamber music by Penelope Thwaites (b.1944)

Penelope Thwaites<sup>1</sup>, Benjamin Frith<sup>2</sup> *piano*,  
Laurence Ungless<sup>3</sup> *double bass*, Tippett Quartet<sup>4</sup> (John Mills<sup>5</sup>,  
Jeremy Isaac *violin*, Lydia Lowndes-Northcott *viola*, Bozidar Vukotic<sup>6</sup> *cello*)

[1] Jan Palach's Theme <sup>1</sup>	2:45	[11] For Irina <sup>4</sup>	7:47
<b>A Lambeth Garland</b> <sup>2</sup>	[11:02]	[12] To the Hills <sup>4</sup>	3:17
[2] I. The Lambeth Waltz	1:43	<b>The Selfish Giant</b> <sup>3</sup>	[18:34]
[3] II. A Gardener's Song	2:14	[13] I. Overture	1:45
[4] III. Song of a Scotsman	2:23	[14] II. Children's Dance and Games	2:08
[5] IV. An English Rose	1:43	[15] III. The Chase	0:41
[6] V. The Wildlife Garden	1:14	[16] IV. Giant's Dance	2:01
[7] VI. Reprise: The Lambeth Waltz	1:45	[17] V. Frost, Wind and Snow	2:46
[8] Vijay's Fable <sup>4</sup>	4:16	[18] VI. Spring and the Little Boy	2:51
[9] Mazurka: <b>Au Tombeau de Chopin</b> <sup>4</sup>	6:04	[19] VII. Celebration Dance	1:46
[10] In a Summer Garden (Delius arr. Thwaites) <sup>2</sup>	11:30	[20] VIII. Evening Dance	4:36
		<b>Total Duration:</b>	65:14
		All First Recordings	

Recorded at The Menuhin Hall, Stoke d'Abernon on 25-27 October, 2022  
Recording Producer: Sha Oke Recording Engineer: Ben Connellan  
Front Cover: Penelope Thwaites © Rory Isenow  
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**SOMM Recordings** is delighted to announce the release of *Gardens, Fables, Prisons, Dreams*, eight first recordings of music by **Penelope Thwaites** paying homage to "the heroes, the witty wordsmiths, the dancers, the poets and the visionaries; and two great composers" who have influenced her musical life.

Thwaites is joined by fellow pianist **Benjamin Frith** for the exuberant six-part *A Lambeth Garland*, the enchanting eight-part retelling of Oscar Wilde's fable *The Selfish Giant* and Thwaites' arrangement of Delius's *In a Summer Garden*, the first to be made for two pianos.

She is heard with **John Mills** (violin) and **Bozidar Vukotic** (cello) on *Vijay's Fable*, drawn from her culture-fusing score for Indian choreographer Vijaylakshmi Subramaniam, and the atmospheric *Mazurka: au Tombeau de Chopin*.

The **Tippett Quartet** contribute three memorable performances: *Jan Palach's Theme*, recalling the self-immolating student protestor against the Soviet Union's 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia; *For Irina*, a tribute to dissident Russian poet Irina Ratushinskaya who survived imprisonment but died of cancer in 2017; and with double bassist **Laurence Ungless** for *To the Hills*, a string quintet version of Thwaites' earlier choral setting of Psalm 121.

Since her 1974 London debut at Wigmore Hall, she has performed in more than 30 countries, and is internationally known as an acclaimed pianist and editor of *The New Percy Grainger Companion* (Boydell Press, 2010), the standard reference book on performing his music.

Thwaites' previous SOMM releases include the concert version of her musical co-written with Alan Thornhill, *Ride! Ride!* (SOMMCD 017), featuring Keith Michell as the 18th-century religious and social reformer John Wesley, lauded by *Gramophone* as "a compelling aural drama".

*Choral Music and Songs* (SOMMCD 0612) with Ex Cathedral/Jeffrey Skidmore and soloists Carolyn Sampson, James Gilchrist and William Dazeley, was enthusiastically reviewed, *Classical Music* declaring "the variety is remarkable", *The Classic Review* hailing it "intriguing and original".

**MP3 Recording:**

<https://soundcloud.com/siva-oke/a-lambeth-garland-extract>

[https://soundcloud.com/siva-oke/09-mazurka\\_au-tombeau-de-chopin-gbbzs2367209](https://soundcloud.com/siva-oke/09-mazurka_au-tombeau-de-chopin-gbbzs2367209)