Gerald Finzi made an unrivalled contribution to British twentieth-century song-writing, especially in his settings of Thomas Hardy, his favourite poet. This second volume of Finzi songs includes two Hardy collections, the early *By Footpath and Stile*, for baritone and string quartet, and the mature setting *Earth and Air and Rain*, both of which share the poet's preoccupation with death and the transience of life. Composed during the early 1930s, *Earth and Air and Rain* includes two of Finzi's best-known songs, *Rollicum-Rorum* and *To Lizbie Browne*, a touching poem of regret for what might have been. Volume 1 is available on Naxos 8.557644.

Gerald FINZI (1901–1956)

 1-10
 Earth and Air and Rain, Op. 15
 31:39

 11-16
 To a Poet, Op. 13a
 17:02

 17-22
 By Footpath and Stile, Op. 2
 23:14

Roderick Williams, Baritone

Iain Burnside, Piano (1-16) • Sacconi Quartet (17-22)

This recording was made possible by the support of the Finzi Trust Finzi Friends: www.chosen-arts.org.uk/finzifriends

Recorded in Potton Hall, Suffolk, UK from 27th to 28th August 2005 (1-16) and 10th January, 2006 (17-22)

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and Mike Clements (177-22) • Post-production: Andrew Walton • MCPS
This recording has been made and edited at 24bit resolution • Publishers: Boosey & Hawkes

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Playing Time 71:54



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