

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

Rhapsody

(1929)

FOR STRING QUARTET



FABER MUSIC

Britten composed the *Rhapsody* for string quartet early in 1929, during his second term at Gresham's School, Holt; he had by then been studying with Frank Bridge for just over a year. During the previous four years he had written no fewer than eight substantial works for string quartet, so it is not surprising that the *Rhapsody*, if not entirely characteristic, is so assured, and its publication has required very little in the way of editing.

The manuscript fair copy is in the Britten-Pears Library, Aldeburgh, together with several drafts, and a viola part of an earlier version of the work copied out by the composer. This would, no doubt, have been for Britten to play himself, but there is no indication that any performance took place at the time. The first public performance was given at the Royal Northern College of Music by the Alexandra Quartet (Richard Milone, Sharon Haslam, Peter Kemp and Sophie Harris) on 6 November 1985, and the same players repeated it at the 1986 Aldeburgh Festival.

C.M.

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The set of parts is also available on sale

Duration: 7 minutes

The *Rhapsody* is recorded by the Endellion Quartet
on EMI EX 270502/3, CDC 747694/2 CD or
Ex 270502/5 cassette

(1929)

BENJAMIN BRITTEN
(1913-1976)

[sempre accel.]

Allegro ed animato