

ALEC ROWLEY
1892-1958

Suite

I. Prelude

II. Canzona

III. Aspiration

IV. Toccata

This set is rarely performed, but it represents many other wonderful gems that come out of hiding every generation or two. The first movement has several motives that appear and re-appear as a sort of thematic introduction. The second movement is of particular interest: although Rowley was British, this melody and its various harmonic twists and turns put one rather in mind of a light lunch outside a Paris café, while people like Debussy, Fauré, and Monet are hard at work down the street. The third movement is a quiet foray in various harmonic directions, refusing to become too animated or forceful. The closing Toccata in b minor is in typical style, with fast-moving manual notes and slow-moving pedal. Its second theme, however, is much like a hymn and closes the set with an exciting dignity.