

# NEWS RELEASE

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## IRISH IDYLLS & INTERLUDES: RARE PIANO MINIATURES FROM EM RECORDS

The music of Irish-born miniaturist Archy Rosenthal (1874-1947) appears on a new collection from EM Records, the recording arm of the English Music Festival, which specialises in rare or neglected works by British composers. Born into a prominent Dublin family, Rosenthal was determined to become a virtuoso pianist, and studied in Vienna under Theodore Leschetizky, whose pupils included Paderewski. Rosenthal also made the acquaintance of Edvard Grieg, and became in the early years of the twentieth century a most distinguished musical academic, holding professorships at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin and at London's Trinity College of Music.

EM Records has collaborated, once again, with pianist Duncan Honeybourne (a dedicated exponent of lesser-known repertoire, and a regular performer at the English Music Festival) in a recording of Rosenthal's 1933 *Three Irish Pastels* (*Sad Colleen*, *A Slow Reel*, and *Irish Dawn*), and two works from the previous year: the *Variations on a Nursery Rhyme: Hush-a-Bye-Baby, On the Tree-Top*, and *Four Interludes*. The composer's *Barcarolle*, from 1926, is also included in the collection, as are *The Four Seasons: Short Suite of Characteristic Pieces* (1937). With titles such as *Dream Waltz* and *The Lonely Shepherd (Winter)*, Rosenthal's 'Four Seasons', and indeed most of his output, is characterised by its descriptive, lyrical, yearning, impressionistic lightness of touch, and its profoundly romantic, Irish imagination.

The towering figures of Sir Charles Villiers Stanford and Sir Arnold Bax also appear on the new disc: Stanford's *Ballade in G minor*, op.170 (1919) and Bax's *Mountain Mood*, which dates from 1915 – the year before the Easter Rising in Dublin.

Rosenthal is not the only overlooked name to appear in Duncan Honeybourne's fascinating and finely-played new collection, however; the music of Dubliner, Walter Beckett (1914-96), appears very rarely, if at all, in concert programmes today, and we can now re-appraise his music in a beautifully-delivered account of his *Three Preludes* from 1942, with its evocative *Prelude on a Winter Afternoon* and Lento-scored *Prelude of Seven Bars*.

ENDS

*Notes to editors:*

- For more information about this recording or about the label, or to request press copies, please contact:

Em Marshall-Luck, The Red House, Lanchards Lane, Shillingstone, Blandford Forum, DT11 0QU; telephone 07808 473 889; or email [em.marshall@btinternet.com](mailto:em.marshall@btinternet.com).

- EM Records: [www.em-records.com](http://www.em-records.com)
- EMRCD024: *An Irish Idyll* is due for release on 31st July 2014. RRP £14.99.