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William Mathias




**Piano Sonata No. 1**

Op. 23

Solo piano

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**From Oxford University Press : Piano Sonata No. 1, Op. 23** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Piano Sonata No. 1, Op. 23:

for solo piano Utilizing the standard 3-movement sonata form, this vivacious Piano Sonata contrasts moments of great energy, verve, and rhythmic drive in the first and third movements with expressive yet dissonant writing in the second. Commissioned for the 1964 Arts Festival of the University College of North Wales, Bangor, Piano Sonata No.1 was first performed in Madrid by John Clegg on 13 February 1964. The first performance in Great Britain was given by the composer at the Bangor Arts Festival on 11 March 1964.

Very much a pianist's sonata, written with true understanding of the instrument. \* The Times, 7 December 1964 \* A brilliant sonata for the mature pianist. \* American Music Teacher, Nov-Dec 1966 \* This sonata reveals a very fearless and logical mind at work, who, while using modern devices, has not lost his traditional roots. \* Clifford Lewis \*About the Author William Mathias was born in Whitland, Dyfed. He studied at the University College of Wales, and subsequently at the Royal Academy of Music. From 1970-1988 he was Head of the Music Department at the University College of North Wales, Bangor. Mathias musical language embraced both instrumental and vocal forms with equal success, and he addressed a large and varied audience both in Britain and abroad. He was also known as a conductor and pianist, and gave or directed many premieres of his own works. He was made CBE in the 1985 New Year's Honours. In 1992, the year of his death, Nimbus Records embarked upon a series of recordings of his major works.