

# Music of England's Golden Age

## ON BYRD'S WINGS

*William Byrd and his Circle*

**Dorothee Miels**  
**Magdalene Harer**  
**Boreas Quartett Bremen**  
**Hathor Consort**

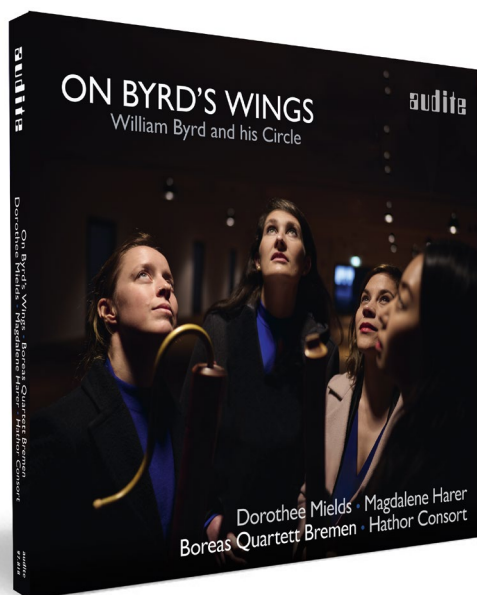


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A musical journey to (post-)Elizabethan England as it transitioned from the renaissance into the early baroque period: consort songs, fantasies and dances by William Byrd and his successors in colourful interpretations by the Boreas Quartett Bremen, the Hathor Consort and the sopranos Dorothee Miels and Magdalene Harer.



The heyday of English consort music coincided with the exciting shift in musical style between 1580 and 1630 from the renaissance to the early baroque period. William Byrd and his successors made their mark with sacred and secular songs, fantasies and dances. Honouring the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of William Byrd's death, this album displays the diversity and richness in colour of consort music.

On the one hand, English composers employed a strikingly sophisticated writing style, whilst on the other hand taking up popular music of their time. The results were atmospheric musical pictures reflecting the deep melancholy, pious confidence and full-bodied *joie de vivre* of Shakespeare's era.

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