

Dame Ethel Smyth – Recorded Music

Compiled by Lewis Orchard

Smyth's works are only partially available on record, indeed some appear never to have been recorded. Details of any early recordings on 78rpm and long-playing vinyl records or tape cassettes are hard to come by. The following list shows known CD recordings (there may be others) which may or may not still be available.

There are several recordings by German companies of Smyth's music, especially her chamber works. British companies seem largely disinterested in this historically important English composer with very few recordings made to date. At the time of writing (2015) there are no recordings of five of her six operas, nor of her choral symphony 'The Prison'.

The most comprehensive list of her works is that by Jory Bennett which, as well as detailing the works, gives, where known, the dates of first performances and for those works published the names of the publishers. A copy of this list is included in file 9180/5 of the Surrey History Centre archive.

'The Wreckers' Overture.

Columbia DX 287

Recorded 1930

British Symphony Orchestra/Ethel Smyth

'The Wreckers', Opera in 3 Acts.

Conifer CDCF 250/1

Recording of complete opera performed at a B BC Promenade Concert on 31 July 1994

BBC Philharmonia/Odaline de la Martinez

Chamber Music, Volumes 1 and 2

Troubadisc TRO-CD 03

Vol 1 Sonata for violin and piano, Op.7

String Quintet, Op.1

Vol 2 Sonata for 'cello and piano, Op.5

String Quartet (1902/12)

Fanny Mendelssohn Quartet; Celine Dutilly (piano)

Chamber Music, Volume 3

Troubadisc TRO-CD 01405

Four songs with chamber accompaniment (1907)

Three songs (1913)

Double concerto (1926) – version for violin, horn and piano

Melinda Paulson (mezzo soprano); Angela Gassenbauer (piano)

Renate Eggebrecht-Kupsa (violin); Franz Draxingen (horn); Celine Dutilly (piano).

Complete Piano Works

cpo 999 327-2

Liana Serbascu (piano)

String Quartet in E minor (1902/12)
cpo 999 352-2
String Quintet in E major op.1
Mannheimer String Quartet; Joachim Griesheimer (2nd 'cello)

Trio for violin, 'cello and piano in D minor
Meriden CDE 84286
Sonata for violin and piano Op.7
Sonata for 'cello and piano Op.5
Chagall Trio

Serenade in D for orchestra
Chandos CHAN 9449
Concerto for violin, horn and orchestra
Sophie Langdon (violin); Richard Watkins (horn); BBC Philharmonic/Odaline de la
Martinez

Mass in D
Audite 97.448
Philharmonia Choir; Wurtemberg Philharmonic/Helmut Wolf

Mass in D
Virgin VC7 91188-2
Mrs. Water's Aria from 'The Boatswain's Mate' opera
'The March of the Women'
Eiddwen Harray (soprano); Plymouth (USA) Festival Chorus and Orchestra/Phillip
Brunelle.

The British Library Sound and Moving Image Catalogue includes many non-commercial recordings both of her music and also of broadcasts by Smyth herself and others, e.g. Sir Thomas Beecham, talking about her works and exploits.