



# THE TIMES

## Ruby Hughes: End of my Days

**F**urther vocal magic arrives in the shape of the soprano Ruby Hughes's typically thoughtful recital with four gorgeously expressive string players from Manchester Collective, recorded two years ago when lockdown challenges weighed more heavily upon us than they do now. Even so, time has done nothing to dim the glory of Hughes's clean and intensely expressive singing, or the manifold pleasures of a wide-ranging collection that might deal in part with loss and death but resonates most of all with the joy of loving and living.

The composers range from Debussy and Mahler to modern-day Brits, interspersed with Dowland laments, the vitamin C jolt of Caroline Shaw's "Valencia" and a Shetland folk song from the mists of time. Nothing appears out of place, everything is deeply felt and I sat happily throughout, basking in beauty and wonder. (BIS)

**Geoff Brown**

