

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

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GRIFFES/ KORNGOLD

ROMAN
SKETCHES/
SYMPHONIC
SERENADE

LSO/Pittau, ASV Gold,
£12.99 ★★☆☆☆

Rarities here, too. The American composer Charles Griffes, who died aged 35 in 1920, was influenced by Debussy, Schreker and others of that period as is clearly and profitably to be heard in the four Roman Sketches (originally for piano), which open with 'The White Peacock' by which he is mainly remembered today.

Simone Pittau conducts an eloquent performance, as he does of Korngold's 1947 *Serenade for Strings* (65 of them), a magnificent work – really – which fully justifies the 'Symphonic' in the title. This is a superb performance of music we should hear often. Written for the Vienna Philharmonic, its first performance was conducted by Wilhelm Furtwängler in 1950.

To order any of the above CDs please telephone Telegraph Music Direct on 0870 164 6465