



**THE SUNDAY TIMES**

7<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**BERNART DE VENTADORN**

**Chantador de joi d'amor**

**Gutierrez del Arroyo/Vilas**

*Etcetera KTC1651*

The subject of the Occitan troubadour of the 12th century was love, and no poet-composer conveys its joys and agonies more affectingly, in both text and melody, than the Limousin-born Bernart de Ventadorn. Paloma Gutierrez del Arroyo gives reflective, transporting performances of six entrancing examples, her characterful fruity sounds evoking a sense of absence and longing well suited to our strange times. Manuel Vilas's reflective harp accompaniments, part embellishment, part improvisation, set these jewels perfectly. *Stephen Pettitt*