



artists: Cypress String Quartet, Borromeo String Quartet
 Stephen Salters, baritone
title: Elena Ruehr: Six String Quartets
price: Full price
release date: 16 February 2018
selection number: AV 2379
bar code: 822252237924

about the release

For Guggenheim Fellow composer **Elena Ruehr** the appeal of the string quartet lies in the ability of four instruments to express an infinite range of emotional possibilities, to communicate across time. Her six string quartets attest to her enthusiasm for musical time-travel: echoes of Perotin, Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Dvořák, Schoenberg and jazz are there, but the musical language is purely her own. Elena's Six String Quartets are a magnum opus, three of them commissioned by the Cypress String Quartet, two by

the Rockport Chamber Music Festival, and one an ASCAP Award winner.

critical acclaim for Elena Ruehr

“sumptuously scored and full of soaring melodies and piquant harmonies” – *The New York Times*

“Music with heart and a forceful sense of character and expression” – *The Washington Post*

summary

Guggenheim Fellow and ASCAP Award winning composer Elena Ruehr's six string quartets are a magnum opus that travel musical time with echoes of Perotin, Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Dvořák, Schoenberg and jazz, but the musical language is purely her own.

track list

Elena Ruehr (b. 1963)

CD 1

String Quartet No. 5 (Bel Canto) (26:25)

commissioned by the Cypress String Quartet

1. I. Rebels in the vents (1:18)
2. II. Three generals (1:05)
3. III. Esmeralda and Joachim (2:37)
4. IV. The accompanist dies (1:39)
5. V. Simon Thibault makes coq au vin (0:50)
6. VI. Gen translates for Roxanne (2:54)
7. VII. Carmen studies grammar (2:56)
8. VIII. Gen arranges a meeting (1:35)
9. IX. Cesar sings (1:15)
10. X. In the garden (10:19)

String Quartet No. 3 (23:32)

commissioned by the Rockport Chamber Music Festival

11. I. Clay Flute (3:55)
12. II. The Abbey (8:55)
13. III. How She Danced (4:12)
14. IV. Bell Call (6:31)

String Quartet No. 1: Four Pieces for String Quartet (20:49)

commissioned by the Shanghai String Quartet

15. I. Patterns (7:39)
16. II. Interlude (3:35)
17. III. Let's Sit Beneath the Stars (5:27)
18. IV. Estampie (4:09)

Total time CD 1: 70:57

CD 2

1. *String Quartet No. 2: Song of the Silkie* (15:22) *

commissioned by the Rockport Chamber Music Festival

String Quartet No. 6 (23:20)

commissioned by the Cypress String Quartet

2. I. Restless (7:15)
3. II. For Todd (3:20)
4. III. Idée fixe (7:30)
5. IV. Finale (5:18)

String Quartet No. 4 (30:31)

commissioned by the Cypress String Quartet

6. I. Sonata: Introduzione: Andante con moto (7:27)
7. Aria: Andante (7:04)
8. III. Minuet: Grazioso (7:57)
9. Finale: Allegro molto (8:04)

Total time CD 2: 69:24

Cypress String Quartet

* Borromeo String Quartet; Stephen Salters *baritone*

Recorded 6-7 September 2007 (CD2, tracks 6-9), 17-18 and 20-21 December 2007 (CD1, tracks 11-18), 23-24 May 2010 (CD1, tracks 1-10), 17-18 December 2015 (CD2, tracks 2-5) at Skywalker Sound Scoring Stage, San Rafael, California; Producer: Cecily Ward; Recording & Mastering Engineer: Mark Wilsher; Assistant Engineer: Dann Thompson

Recorded 10-12 August 2017 (CD2, track 1) at Futura Productions, Roslindale, Massachusetts; Producer: Cecily Ward; Recording Engineer: John Weston; Mixing & Mastering Engineer: Mark Wilsher; Assistant Engineers: Alec Seymour, Jacob Steingart

MARKETING AND PROMOTION

media targets

Classical, Strings, Contemporary

advertising

Print: Gramophone, BBC Music Magazine, Strings, The Strad

Online: Facebook, Twitter

reviews

Magazines: Gramophone, BBC Music Magazine, Listen, Fanfare, American Record Guide, Strings, The Strad

Newspapers: Sunday Times, Daily Telegraph, Guardian, Observer, Boston Globe

airplay

BBC Radio 3 – Record Review; NPR; WCRB – Boston

key territories

USA

listening link

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lead / instant grat tracks

CD 1, track 3: *String Quartet No. 5 (Bel Canto)* - III. Esmeralda and Joachim

CD 1, track 16: *String Quartet No. 1: Four Pieces for String Quartet* - II. Interlude

CD 2, track 5: *String Quartet No. 6* - IV. Finale

social media

Elena Ruehr: Facebook – 600; Twitter – 6,000

AVIE Records: Facebook – 900; Twitter – 1,450

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