

New CDs for 2009

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OBOE DIVAS! Emily Pailthorpe and Elaine Douvas

This CD actually came out last year, but has just had two new reviews: "This program embodies what I love about opera and music so much. It runs a wide spectrum of emotions depicted in music, from nonchalance to determination, from carefree joy in the simple pleasures to the pursuit of forbidden love and seduction. It's all here." *David Schwartz, American Record Guide*

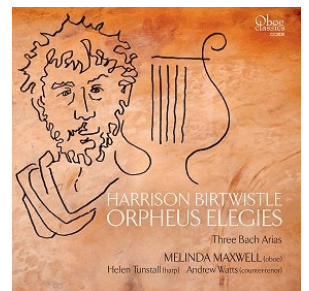
"The nine major selections begin with a ravishing rendition of Delibes' *Flower Duet*... and the Divas found a moving conclusion with the opening scene from Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*... they weave and match their sinuous timbres; but when Douvas returns to the low register, you can just about eat it with a spoon." *Jeanne Belfy, The Double Reed*

The Divas have also provided a **free bonus MP3 track** for Christmas - Papageno's entrance from *The Magic Flute* (downloadable from the web site).



ORPHEUS ELEGIES Melinda Maxwell with Helen Tunstall & Andrew Watts

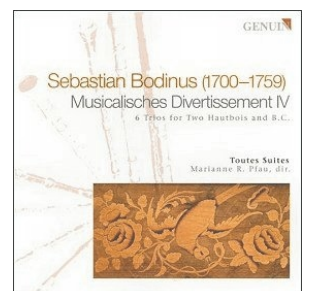
This CD has had uniformly excellent reviews right across the musical press which can be seen on the web site, to which I add my own reasons for your getting it: Melinda's gorgeous, committed playing; the relative accessibility of these 26 'musical postcards'; the depth of feeling of the music (to rival that of Britten's *Metamorphoses*), with the background fully explored in the CD booklet; and finally, that this music can expand your appreciation of what an oboe can communicate, in conjunction with harp and (in 7 of the Elegies) voice.



BODINUS Six Trio Sonatas played by *Toutes Suites*

If you're curious about a 'new' composer who comes from the same fertile cultural climate that produced J S Bach, read on. The six sonatas are for two oboes and continuo, played here on baroque instruments. This German/American group is uniformly excellent, three oboists sharing out the solo parts.

Nicholas Anderson, writing in the *International Record Review*, says: "The faster movements... have an airy, formally unencumbered quality; the slow ones yield a melancholy utterance which is affecting. In short, this is a fascinating discovery - a current top favourite in our household."

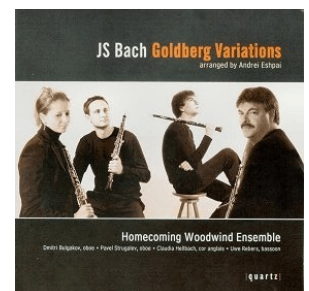


GOLDBERG VARIATIONS Homecoming Woodwind Ensemble

The *BBC Music Magazine* said of this CD "Superbly played... in a lively and sympathetic acoustic, and there is much to admire in the artistry of these four players." These Russian and German players are indeed excellent, and it's great to have such a major work available for winds.

The arrangement is very successful. Sometimes its keyboard origins are evident, but at other times the complex canonic writing is actually enhanced by the use of 4 wind instruments, the two stereo oboes being particularly effective.

The story that these variations were composed for Johann Goldberg to play to the insomniac Count Kaiserling is probably not true. Anyway, this music is not sleep-inducing; the constant creativity of the composer makes for a musical journey that you wouldn't want to miss.



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