

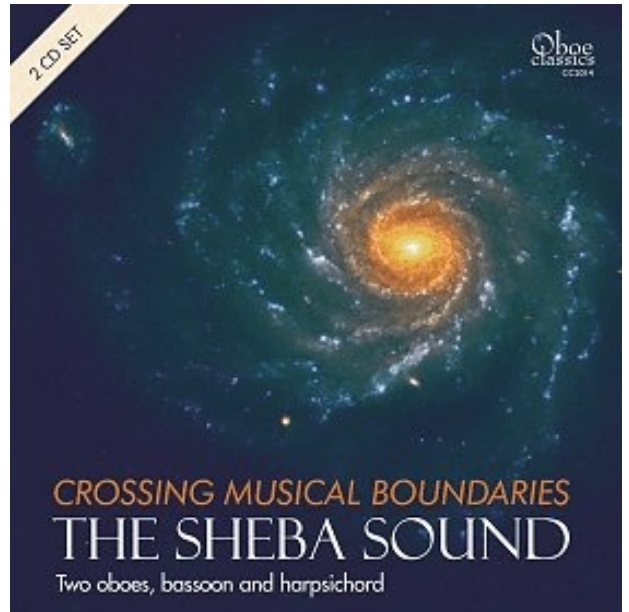
The Sheba Sound

two oboes, bassoon and harpsichord crossing musical boundaries

Bach with a rhythm section, a jazzy piece by Daryl Runswick, a Viennese Polka, a creative version of the Beatles' *Here Comes the Sun* - variety like this makes the first of these two CDs great for car journeys or downloading into your iPod.

The second combines contemporary works such as David Matthews' Toccatas and Pastorals and Jean-Michel Damase's Suite pour Quatre with Baroque pieces by François Couperin and (of course) the *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*.

A highly enjoyable tribute to a group that crossed musical boundaries for more than twenty years.



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The 24-page CD booklet has a 6,000 word programme note in English, with many photos. The download version has an introduction to the group and its repertoire, without the track details or biographies. More details can be found at www.oboeclassics.com/Sheba.htm



"Great entertainment. It can be played as a background to a meal or household chores yet with so many assertive blandishments that you will be glad to interrupt and listen or to be happy to listen in breaks in conversation. The single-width set is most thoroughly annotated and there are plenty of evocative photos as well.

This revival was a thoughtful and cleverly considered and executed project; typical of all Oboe Classics' releases. A winner and not just for cross-over children of the seventies and eighties. It's a natural for Christmas or any other season and a better than pleasant diversion after you have surfeited on Pettersson symphonies, Bax tone poems or Schoenberg quartets." *Rob Barnett, Music Web International*

"The Sheba Sound has brought music to places as far away as Oman, with impeccable performing standards. Catherine Smith, who created the ensemble, has earned the accolade of these recordings from Oboe Classics... The baroque works are played with a pleasing absence of 'authentic' mannerisms projected by beautiful oboe, bassoon and harpsichord playing." *Edwin Roxburgh, Double Reed News*

[photo: Sheba Sound c1979. L to R: Alastair Ross, Deirdre Dundas-Grant, Catherine Smith, Deirdre Lind.]