

Oboe Divas!

Operatic Duos and Ensembles from Handel to Wagner

Emily Pailthorpe and Elaine Douvas (oboes) with members of the **Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, New York** and the **London CONCHORD Ensemble**

Why should singers have all the best tunes? Delibes' *Flower Duet* works brilliantly on oboes. Other operatic moments are celebrated, from Donizetti's *Lucia* arranged by the 19th century Henri Brod, to a wind quintet by Richard Blackford on themes from Wagner's *Die Meistersinger*.

Sometimes the Divas are alone, as in an aria from *Figaro*, sometimes accompanied by superb musicians from the London CONCHORD Ensemble, and the New York Met Opera in an arrangement from *Fidelio*.



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The 24-page CD booklet has a 6,000 word programme note in English and many photos. The download version includes an introduction to the repertoire, but no details or biographies. More details can be found at www.oboeconcerts.com/Divas.htm



"All the items are well recorded and have lively playing, especially from the two main protagonists whose delightful but slightly varied tones are a pleasure in themselves. Cunning ordering ensures variety of texture and character throughout, and lengthy and interesting notes are provided. Clearly this will appeal especially to enthusiasts of the opera or the oboe, but it deserves a much wider circulation."
John Sheppard, MusicWeb International

"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 (US)

"... So did our heroines clinch the deal? It depends on where you set the bars. There are soaring lines, flying fingers, gorgeous sounds... But did they better Mme. X in opera Y on night Z? I can't say for sure; I wasn't there. But I wouldn't argue against it. Enjoy."
George Chien, Fanfare Magazine (US)



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