



Recent Releases Tuesday: Albums by Meng Su, Raphaella Smits, Michaela Hrabankova & Gabriel Bianco, and Mark Westling

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Divertissements

Gabriel Bianco (guitar), Michaela Hrabankova (oboe)

Ad Vitam records

French guitarist Bianco and Czech oboist Hrabankova make a **wonderful match on this enthralling disc culled from the admittedly small repertoire written for their two instruments.** (Actually one piece here, Napoléon Coste's *Le Départ*, is just solo guitar, deftly handled.) Coste (1805–1883) is the only 19th century composer among the four of the disc, but the other three, whose pieces all date from the 1940s, appear to owe more to Romantic, Classical, and even Baroque antecedents—not to mention some folk sources—than to composers of the modern era.

Still, there are nods to modernity (particularly in Barna Kováts' *Sonatine pour hautbois et guitare*), but nothing jarring; clearly the goal of this was to delight and enchant, and it succeeds at both.

Sonatine pour hautbois et guitar (Pilss); *Le Départ* (Coste); *Deuxième Sonate pour hautbois et guitar* (Rebay); *Le Montagnard* (Coste); *Sonatine pour hautbois et guitar* (Kováts)

This April 2017 release can be pre-ordered through Ad Vitam; and should be available for download from a few different sources once it is formally released, so check back at the Ad Vitam site. Here's a YouTube audio version of the first movement of Karl Pilss' *Sonatine pour hautbois et guitar*, recorded a year before the CD.