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Fresh and Exciting 20th century Reed Compositions and Performances

By Dennis E. Ferrara on November 3, 2016

Ensemble Trielen is one of Europe's most innovative reed ensembles and this superb recital of 20th century French compositions for a reed trio is noteworthy indeed. Formed in 2005, this ensemble explores the repertoire from Mozart to the 20th century. Here one finds some very interesting reed literature.

The Program - Musique Française pour Trio d'anches- Ensemble Trielen - (Michel Hoffmann, oboe; Christopher Dravers, clarinet; Phillipe David, bassoon) - Ad Vitam - TT: 50:00 - French Composers of the 20th Century - Georges Auric - (1899-1983) - Trio - (1938) - i. Decide; ii. Romance; iii. Final; Henri Tonasi - (1901-1971) - (1938) - Concert Champetre - i. Ouverture; ii. Menuet; iii. Bouree; iv. Nocturne; v. Tambourin; Alexandre Tansman - (1897-1986) - Suite pour Trio d'Anches - (1949) - i. Dialogue; ii. Scherzino; iii. Aria; iv. Finale; Jacques Ibert - (1890-1962) - Cinq pieces en trio - (1935) - i. Allegro vivo; ii. Andante; iii. Allegro assai; iv. Andante; v. Allegro quasi marziale; Darius Milhaud - (1892-1974) - Suite d'apres Corrette, Op. 161 - (1937) - i. Entrée et Rondeau; ii. Tambourin; iii. Musette; iv. Fanfare; v. Serenade; vi. Fanfare; vii. Rondeau; viii. Menuets; ix. Le coucou.

Here one discovers beautiful music making for its own sake. It is quite apparent that these fine musicians play together to create the artistic whole. Their balance, tone, nuance, expression and their total understanding for the art of the musical phrase is in evidence throughout this fine recital.

The music is fresh because it is basically unknown to most music lovers. The flavor of the French is here and each composition offers something clever, sensitive, and interesting to say the least. Almost each of the composers knew "Les Six" and their respective melodies and harmonies reflect their knowledge and friendship of the relative "Les Six."

As may be always found in any Ad Vitam releases, excellent program notes in French and English exist with several B & W photos which add much to the educational component of their respective releases. Highly recommended for those individuals who love superb performances found in the reed families of the orchestra.