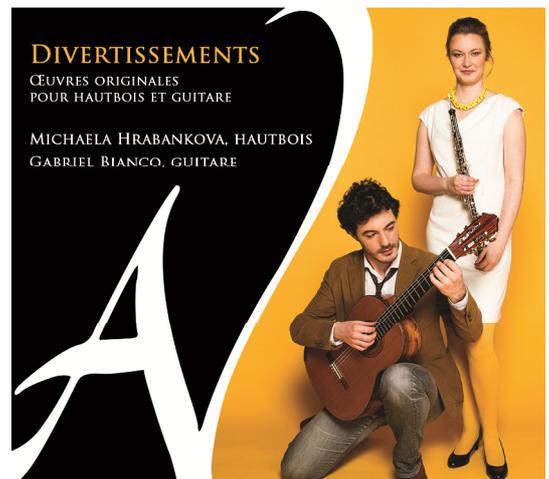




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[A Subtle and Lush Duo: Oboe and Guitar](#)

By [Dennis E. Ferrara](#) on May 25, 2017

Ad Vitam is an interesting and relatively new French label which has an excellent series of chamber music and this new release is a most welcomed one to this superb series. The Oboe and Guitar are warm, lush and plaintive instruments and **this new and exciting duo is an exciting addition to this unique repertoire.**

The Program - Divertissements - Original Works for Oboe and Guitar - Gabriel Bianco, guitar and Michaela Hrabankova, oboe - (hautbois) - Ad Vitam - TT: 59:37 - (2017) - Karl Pilss - (1902-1979) - Sonatina for Oboe and Guitar - (1942) - i.ii.iii.; Napoleon Coste - (1805-1883) - iv. Fantaisie Dramatique: 'Le Depart,' Op. 31; Ferdinand Rebay - (1880-1953) - Second Sonata for Oboe and Guitar - (1942) - v.-viii.; Napoleon Coste - ix. Le Montagnard: Divertissement Pastorale, Op. 34 in A major Introduction; x. Le Montagnard: Rondeau montagnard; xi. Barna Kovats - (1920-2005) - Sonatina for Oboe and Guitar - (1948) in E minor - i-iv.

This new release is the first recording of **this superb and sensitive tonal duo: guitar and oboe. The choice of repertoire is colorful, lush, and with an emphasis of beautiful combined tone for its own artistic sake.** Monsieur Bianco has issued several releases on the Ad Vitam label as well as with **the fantastic guitar ensemble** which he has founded and recorded again on the Ad Vitam label. The dynamic duo performs with clarity, expression, warmth of tone as well as nuance, phrasing and certainly a colorful flair for the dramatic. The Pilss work is definitely a post-romantic composition and full of lovely melodies and color combination for the oboe and guitar. The Coste compositions are diverse, rich in melodies and aesthetics; The Rebay is a delightful, post-romantic work and this team is extremely well balanced. It is interesting to note that the composer never played the guitar; however, his works for the instrument are highly successful for performer as well as for an audience. The Kovats composition has each instrument play in equal importance and combines classical music and folk music; moreover, there are dance elements and irregular time signatures. Yet, there are some elements of modernism with polyrhythms which one would find in the select compositions of Bartok and Zoltan Kodaly.

The **really excellent program notes** are in French, English and Japanese; furthermore, as may be found in all Ad Vitam releases, these program notes not only give an educational background to the repertoire but also are written in such a way to make the reader enjoy the actual compositions by the interesting style of writing. Congratulations are in store for the scholarly and interesting author of these program explanations. Nice photos add to the overall enjoyment here. **Highly recommended for those individuals who love the guitar and appreciate the haunting tone of an oboe. It is hope that this will be the first of an excellent series of this young and exciting tonal performance team.**