



Magazine Issues Conductors Performers Ensembles & Orchestras Instrumentalists Instruments

Singers Voices Vocal Roles Advanced Audio Reviewers Labels

Feature Articles Composers & Works Collections Jazz Videos Bollywood & Beyond Book Reviews Want Lists Hall of Fame

Article By Huntley Dent

ÖSTLUND *Lunaris*^{1,7} . *Opus Pocus Fantienne*² . *Phantasion*³ . *Air dans l'air*⁴ . *Lumière d'étoiles*⁵ . *Fantasia on Scarborough Fair*⁶ . *Rencontre*⁷ . *The Wizard*⁸ . *Rêverie—Jeux de pluie*⁹ . *Night-struck*¹⁰ . *Winter Vigil*¹¹ . *Rêve et Lune*¹² . *Miroir d'un mirage*¹³ . *La Féerique et Pierrot*¹⁴ . *The Frog Pond*¹⁵ . *Music at Moonrise*¹⁶ • 1,12,14,16,17 Ruxandra Ibric Cioranu (sop);^{6,8} Lydia Hillerudh,¹⁰ Alexander Zagorinsky (vc);^{8,16,17} Ariel Jacob Lang (vn);¹⁵ Ursula Leveaux (bn);^{2,3,4,6,8} Eleonore Pameijer (fl);^{2,3,6,7} Yoana Kareмова,¹⁰ Einar Steen-Nøkleberg,^{1,5,11,12,13,14,15,16,17} Blandine Waldmann (pn);⁹ Cellini Qrt • DIVINE ART 21336 (2 CDs: 124:29)

Swedish composer Jonathan Östlund, newly moved to London, has been composing and gaining increasing recognition for two decades. That doesn't happen unless you create an amalgam of personal stylistic gestures that appeal to audiences. Östlund's signature, like Debussy and Schumann in the great tradition, merges atmosphere, mystery, fantasy, and fairy tale. In this collection of 16 chamber works, the title *Lunaris* indicates a fascination with moonlight, the night, and nature's creatures, both real and imagined. The sensation of *Nachtmusik* is so strong that one can approach these two discs as a single narrative of encounters by moonlight.



Lunaris Audio CD DIVINE ART Buy now from Divine Art Buy now from Amazon.com

Östlund supports this perspective by bookending the program with a hauntingly mysterious sound, the cry of the black-throated loon (*Gavia arctica*), that, like the recorded birdcall in Einojuhani Rautavaara's *Cantus Arcticus*, thrusts music and Nature together—it's an amazing cry, reminiscent of coyotes and deranged (loony) spirits at the same time. As a scene-setter, Östlund's one-minute miniature, *Lunaris*, employs a lyric soprano (Ruxandra Ibric Cioranu) in wordless vocalise and the piano (Blandine Waldmann) to imitate the notes of the loon's song before the music finds its own improvisatory, rhapsodic response.

The main tradition of composers with strong poetic inclinations is to rely on both improvisation and rhapsody, so the thrust of Östlund's imagination feels familiar on the one hand, while his personal vocabulary—striking, often repetitive rhythms, dashes of Shostakovich and Prokofiev, diatonic harmonies that bend in other directions, and remembrances of vocal traditions from Arabia and the Orient that decorate the lyrical line with melismatic flourishes—is markedly original. Impressionistic titles are chosen that Debussy would be happy to own (*Jeux de pluie*, *Rêve et lune*, *La Féerique et Pierrot*), but the music isn't quasi-Impressionist. One senses instead the stomp of folk dancers and even a crossover number, *Fantasia on Scarborough Fair*, that treads the path of Percy Grainger.

The longest work here is a 27-minute piano suite *Miroir d'un mirage*, that references Ravel's *Miroirs* and underlines the homage by naming the six movements O-N-D-I-N-E (after a section of *Gaspard de la nuit*), but that's almost a misdirection, since we are not in the sparkling world of a water sprite. Östlund's piano style is robust, rhythmic, and earthy, often relying on seed motifs as short as a single interval, which then get repeated and worked through without losing the germ of the idea. (Blandine Waldmann returns as the excellent solo

Our Advertisers

[About Fanfare / Contact Us](#)
[Advertise in the Fanfare Archive](#)

Not To Be Missed!



Interview & Reviews Dvořák, Herbert Cello Concertos



SCHUBERT: String Quartet No. 15 in G



Silver and Gold



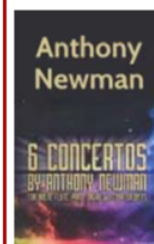
Lunaris



Michala Petri, Michael Bojesen, Danish National Vocal Ensemble



Gabrieli, Williams



Interview & Review SCHUBERT



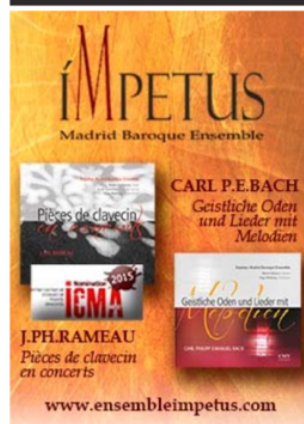
Interview & Review SCHUBERT



Early Romantic Horn Sonatas



Interview & Review Schumann, Walton, Mendelssohn Violin Concertos



Fanfare Archive Subscriber-Only Features

Listen to Audio Samples

Angeles Iglesias: [CHOPIN: Sonata op. 4 no. 1 in c](#)

Eunmi Ko: [Musical Landscapes of Hilary Tann](#)

Florestan Duo: [Beethoven for Cello & Piano](#)

Jonathan Little: [Polyhymnia](#)

Josef Peter Heinzer: [music for orchestra](#)

Laura Schwendinger: [Collected Works](#)

Luisa Guembes-Buchanan: [Mozart Piano Sonatas, Beethoven in D, E. T. A. Hoffman Sonatas / Robert Schumann Kreisleriana, Late Beethoven](#)

Mahan Esfahani, Michala Petri: [CORELLI: La Follia. Sonatas, op. 5/7 -12](#)

Matthew H. Fields: [Double Cluster, Space Sciences / Music Among Friends](#)

Messiah College BrassCross: [Luminosity](#)

Michael Habermann: [SORABJI: Piano Music](#)

Michael Antonello: [Collected Works](#)

Open Goldberg: [Open Goldberg Variations](#)

Rick VanMatre: [Gray Then Blue](#)

Serafin String Quartet: [Selected Works](#)

The Crossing: [Selected Works](#)

Ursula Bagdasarjanz: [Mozart & Schoeck](#)

Ysmael Reyes: [Incanto: Contemporary Venezuelan Music](#)

Fanfare Archive Advertisers

[Michael Antonello](#)

Buy & Sell [Classical CDs](#) at Princeton Record Exchange

pianist.) For a sense of mounting passion, my favorite work is *Night-struck*, a suite for cello and piano whose short three movements are entitled “Invocation” (given to cellist Alexander Zagorinsky alone), “Electrifying” (now joined by pianist Einar Steen-Nøkleberg), and “Astray.”

The imaginary character who feels central to the composer’s lunar fancies is Pierrot from the *commedia dell’arte* (not to worry, his version doesn’t imitate Schoenberg’s), evoked in verse by Östlund: “the moon was lulling Pierrot / whose ‘wine-ding’ road involved Bordeaux.” In other words, we get a dash of mischief, as in the burbling bassoon sounds in *Frog Pond* and some sweet lulling, as in a solo flute number, *Air dans l’air*. Solos, duets, and trios occupy much of the program, but I was impressed by a 12-minute string quartet, *Rêverie—Jeux de pluie*, where Östlund begins with chord progressions accompanied by twiddling cello, quickly moving into improvised territory that grows organically from those elements. The music is quick on its feet, ringing changes that last only a few measures while building through accessible harmonies to eerie passions—and that’s just the first four minutes. The rest of the piece, expertly played by the Cellini Quartet, displays the composer’s talent for long-breathed melody and Romanticism spiked with piquant flecks of dissonance.

Östlund’s artist’s bio lists a clutch of awards and festivals where his punning wit and earthy naturalism have been welcome. I’m happy to welcome those qualities, too, and feel enriched by stepping into his world of fancy free. **Huntley Dent**

Luiz de Moura Castro

Schumann

Arabesque
Kinderszenen
Carnival



Liszt

6 Consolations
3 Petrarch Sonnets
Funerailles
The Sad Monk

CD case for Liszt works by Luiz de Moura Castro

Narrator Bridget de Moura Castro

Rachmaninov

Concerto #3
Paganini Rhapsody

Conductor Slovenia R/T Orch
Ligia Amadio



www.LuizdeMouraCastro.com

Available at:

facebook | cdbaby | iTunes | amazon.com

Want List
BYU Philharmonic
MAHLER
Symphony No. 3

Varda Kotler
L'Heure Romantique
Interview & Review: L'Heure Romantique

Want List
Solo Piano
FLOW: The Music of J.S. Bach and Tobin Mueller

Burkard Schliessmann
Interview & Review Chronological Chopin

Albek Duo
Roaring Dramas

Niklas Sivelöv
Piano Music

STACY GARROP
Mythology Symphony
Chicago College of Performing Arts

James Kreger
Interview & Reviews STRAUSS: Also sprach Zarathustra Don Quixote

Luisa Guembes-Buchanan
E.T.A. Hoffmann
Sonatas Schumann Kreisleriana

Editorial
Citing the Site

Editorial
Is Fanfare Now the Magazine for Serious Musicians?