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06/08-(5)

Title:

Pēteris Vasks (* 1946)
Piano Trio ("Episodi e Canto perpetuo")
Piano Quartet

Musicians:

Trio Parnassus
Avri Levitan, viola

1 CD / SACD

Order Number:

CD: MDG 303 1513-2
Hybrid-SACD: MDG 903 1513-6

UPC-Code:

CD: **Hybrid-SACD:**



Parnassian Discovery

The Trio Parnassus has often surprised us with the discovery of previously unknown musical treasures, and the three musicians do it again on this recording featuring works by the Latvian composer Peteris Vasks! A resident of Riga, Vasks today numbers among the leading composers of the former Soviet states.

Shining Star

Peteris Vasks, the son of a minister, studied at the Riga College of Music. He began with the violin, continued with the double bass until 1970, and then studied composition from 1973 to 1978. It was not until the Soviet Union's demise that his star could shine in Latvia's compositional skies. In 1996 he was named the "main composer" at the Stockholm Festival of New Music and awarded the Herder Music Prize. Since 1994 he has been an honorary member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences.

Fascinating Spell

Vasks composed his eight *Episodi* in homage to Olivier Messiaen in 1985, when the Iron Curtain was still closed; the great tenderness of its beginning immediately captures the hearer's attention. Fifteen years later he began his six-part *Quartet*, a work concluding with a sweeping chaconne. His tonal idiom is expressive, highly emotional, and direct and at the same time completely natural and unaffected. His compositions call on the enormous dynamic breadth of the instruments and cast a fascinating spell on the

hearer, so that we are compelled to listen to them again and again.

Prophetic Intuition

With their more than thirty recordings on MDG the cellist Michael Groß, violinist Yamei Yu, and pianist Chia Chou have not only repeatedly scaled Mount Parnassus but also inherited the prophetic intuition of the nearby Delphic Oracle. Their intuition is never wrong when it comes to presenting unknown composers or forgotten music in excellent quality. This time too, together with the violist Avri Levitan, they guarantee an excellent listening experience.

Prinz Louis Ferdinand von Preußen

Complete Piano Trios
Vol. 1: Trios opp. 2 + 10
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Vol. 2: Trio op. 3, Quartet op. 6
MDG 303 1361-2



Robert Schumann

Piano Quartet C minor (1829), Piano Quartet op. 47
Trio Parnassus
Hariolf Schlichtig, viola
MDG 303 1414-2 (CD)
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