

balance for Mr. Parisi, and his command of difficult passages is very impressive.

by Christopher Ayer

Jag and Jersey. Linda Cionitti, clarinet; Natalia da Roza, piano; Maila Gutierrez, piano; Alan Woy, clarinet; Matthew D. Fallin, percussion; vocal octet; Georgia Southern University Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Robert Dunham, conductor. Libby Larsen: *Yellow Jersey*; Max Reger: *Romanze in G*; James M. David: *E-Type Jag*; Norbert Burgmüller: *Duo*, Op. 15; Libby Larsen: *Corker*; Thomas Martin Wubbenhorst: *Even' Song*; Charles Lloyd: "*Bon Voyage!*" *Impromptu*; Jean Françaix: *Tema con Variazioni*; Scott McAllister: *Black Dog*. MSR CLASSICS MS 1329. Total time 61:03. www.msrd.com



Here is a veritable potpourri of music on one disc! Linda Cionitti presents nine separate works with a host of collaborating musicians and ensembles. The highlight of the recording is the inclusion of three world premiere recordings: Larsen's *Yellow Jersey*, David's *E-Type Jag*, and Wubbenhorst's *Even' Song*.

It's hard to believe that *Yellow Jersey* hasn't been recorded before this, but Linda Cionitti performs it here with Alan Woy, for whom the piece was written. Written in 2004, Cionitti also took part in the premiere of the duet. The performance here with Woy is excellent as they match pitch, articulation and style very well. The pulsing "pedaling" motive that returns again and again is extremely effective. This work has been a great addition to the repertoire, and here is a wonderful first recording of it.

Another world premiere recording of an energetic and effective piece is of James

David's *E-Type Jag* for clarinet and piano. The composer's description: "From 1961 to 1975, Jaguar Cars Ltd. produced a car known as the XKE. It became commonly referred to as the 'E-Type Jag,' and featured a 5.3 liter, V-12 engine and a hood that comprised two-thirds of the total body length. This piece seeks to capture the exhilarating demeanor, infinitely long lines, and sheer power of this vehicle." Cionitti also gave the premiere of this work at the 2000 ClarinetFest® at the University of Oklahoma. *E-Type Jag* is a real technical workout for the clarinetist and features two rhythmic, driving sections that demonstrate what a V-12 engine can really do! These fast sections are interspersed with a reflective middle section that offers the listener and performer a "breather" from the high velocity music. The performance here by Cionitti is sparkling and makes this work a real hidden gem.

The other world premiere recording on the disc is Thomas Wubbenhorst's *Even' Song*. This is a short piece (less than four minutes) that was written for a wedding "and is a reference to the religious practice of a sung prayer on the eve of a great event, and to the Aboriginal belief that all things are sung into existence. It is a quiet chant-like meditation. The composer asks the audience to participate in the performance by softly humming a pitch sounded by the piano. This drone continues throughout the entire piece and is intended to focus the listener's attention on both the music and the solemn event about to commence. For this recording, the composer decided to use eight singers to vocally imitate the sound of a didgeridoo on the pitch of the drone, and to have the organ sound that pitch." It is indeed a very beautiful piece and a neat addition to the disc.

Among other repertoire, this recording also features Libby Larsen's *Corker* and Scott McAllister's *Black Dog*. These are performed very well and the Georgia Southern University Symphonic Wind Ensemble does a fine job with *Black Dog*.

In the opinion of this reviewer, the strength of this CD is really with the world premiere recordings. Cionitti's playing is simply excellent in these works. Another great feature of this disc is the variety of music included. There are probably very few places where one can find the Norbert Burgmüller *Duo* and David's *E-Type Jag* in the same place. Works like the Max Reger *Romanze* and the Charles Lloyd "*Bon Voyage!*" *Impromptu* are so

short that it might be difficult to find them elsewhere. Cionitti has pulled together an eclectic album of music here and it's one that is worth having in any collection.

by Richard Fletcher

Quarteto Vintage. Iva Barbosa, E-flat/b-flat clarinets; João Moreira, B-flat clarinet; José Eduardo Gomes, B-flat clarinet/basset horn; Ricardo Alves, bass clarinet; Luís Oliveira and Luís Neiva, percussion; and special guest Pedro Carneiro, marimba and vibraphone. Joseph Horowitz: *Variations on a Theme of Paganini*; Luís Tinoco: *Short Cuts* (D); Paul Harvey: *Quartetto Quarantoli*; Vítor de Faria: *Tributo a Zeca and Fado a Quatro*; Mike Curtis: *Bulgarian Bat Bite*. (no label indicated). Total time 40:06. www.quartetovintage.com



Iva Barbosa, João Moreira, José Eduardo Gomes and Ricardo Alves, outstanding young Portuguese clarinetists, have been prize winners in several international competitions, including those in Portugal, the U.S.A. and Japan. Their numerous associations include the *Orquestra Nacional do Porto*, National Oporto Conservatory of Music, *Escola Superior de Música do Porto*, Professional School of Viana do Castelo, Music Academy of Espinho and Music Conservatory in Vila Nova de Gaia.

Based on Paganini's *Caprice No. 24* for violin, Joseph Horowitz's (b. 1926) *Variations on a Theme of Paganini*, originally scored for brass quartet, was transcribed by the composer for clarinet quartet (three B-flats and bass). This virtuosic work provides a brilliant opening to *Quarteto Vintage's* first CD. The piece begins with a fragmented statement of the theme, tossed from one clarinet to the next, and displays