



Jane Antonia Cornish

DUENDE

IN LUCE • CLAIR-OBSCUR



0 13491 34592 5



DUENDE

for piano trio

1. Lontano - Con Anima (5:02)
2. Penseroso (4:24)
3. Con Fuoco - Tranquillo (3:42)
4. Dolente (3:06)

Performed by The Lee Trio

IN LUCE

for string quartet

5. Luminoso (3:44)
6. Appassionato (3:41)
7. Solenne (2:30)

Performed by Alyssa Park,
Kathleen Sloan,
Brett Banducci,
Vanessa Freebairn-Smith

CLAIR-OBSCUR

for violin and piano

8. Adagio - Liberamente (6:42)
9. Andante (4:50)
10. Capriccioso (7:39)

Performed by Miranda Cuckson,
Blair McMillen

TOTAL TIME 45:24



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The music of Jane Antonia Cornish contains powerful extremes. The three works on this album – *Duende*, *In Luce*, and *Clair-Obscur* – evoke archetypal themes of light and darkness, themes that are explored by chamber music ensembles: a piano trio, a string quartet, and violin and piano.

A haunting and meditative sound world imbues the evocative piano trio *Duende*. From sublime and delicate tranquility to deft musical abandon, the work's multi-dimensional trajectory is encapsulated in an overall arc of structural, harmonic, and philosophical unity. The title is borrowed from the work's literary inspiration: Federico García Lorca's prose collection *In Search of Duende*, and is suggestive of the Spanish writer's use of the concept of duende as a metaphor for the search of artistic essence through the trinity of the poet, muse and angel. Lorca writes "Everything that has black sounds in it, has duende." Oscillating between moments of contemplative stasis and intricate rhythmic freneticism, *Duende* embraces a complex rhythmic and melodic profile that unfolds over the course of its four movements.

An expanse of solitary isolation permeates the three-movement string quartet *In Luce* (Into the Light). Glimpses of slivered light endeavor to be seen through a fractured and desperate tableau that is nearly void of consolation. The sui generis or-

chestration favors solo lines and instruments in pairs, as the prevailing textures invariably seem to admonish any inclination towards a typical amalgamation of voices. A ritornello in the lower strings, which appears throughout all three movements of the work, announces the quartet's structure both emotionally and architecturally. An ominous knell, the ritornello often terminates the continuously reaching motives of the violins in their inexhaustible crusade towards light. The work concludes, unresolved and abruptly, leaving the listener wonderstruck, as if floating over a boundless abyss.

The violin and piano work *Clair-Obscur* favors resonance and breadth of space. This is accomplished over the course of three movements through an ever-increasing urgency, which is expressed through evolving and contrasting sections of contemplation and virtuosic abandon. Like its emblematic counterpart in the visual arts –chiaroscuro– interplay of light and darkness is both an aesthetic feature and dominant theme of *Clair-Obscur*. The juxtaposition of impassioned contrasts between the luminous and the enigmatic, championed by Caravaggio, constitutes the essence of this aesthetic; this applies equally to *Clair-Obscur*, where light and darkness contrast with dramatic effect.

–Brett Banducci



DUENDE

for PIANO TRIO

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Performed by THE LEE TRIO

IN LUCE

for STRING QUARTET

5. Luminoso (3:44)
6. Appassionato (3:41)
7. Solenne (2:30)

Performed by ALYSSA PARK,
KATHLEEN SLOAN,
BRETT BANDUCCI,
VANESSA FREEBAIRN-SMITH

CLAIR-OBSCUR

for VIOLIN AND PIANO

8. Adagio - Liberamente (6:42)
 9. Andante (4:50)
 10. Capriccioso (7:39)
- Performed by MIRANDA CUCKSON,
BLAIR MCMILLEN

TOTAL TIME: 45:24

THE LEE TRIO

LISA LEE | ANGELA LEE | MELINDA LEE MASUR

Since its critically acclaimed Wigmore Hall debut in 2002, The Lee Trio continues to move audiences and critics around the world with its "gripping immediacy and freshness" and "rich palette of tone colours" (*The Strad*). A "primal force on stage" (*Piedmont Post*), the ensemble of sisters has given recitals and masterclasses in New York, San Francisco, Berlin, Copenhagen, Kiev, London, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Toronto and has garnered awards such as the Recording Prize at the 2004 Kuhmo International Chamber Music Competition in Finland and the 2007 Gotthard-Schierse-Stiftung grant in Berlin for rising international artists. The Trio's innovative programming spans the traditional classical repertoire to commissioned works of living composers across the globe.

MIRANDA CUCKSON

Violinist Miranda Cuckson is one of the foremost and most active violinist-interpreters of contemporary music, and has been praised as "fiercely gifted" (*Time Out New York*), a violinist of "undeniable musicality" and "a brilliant young performer who plays daunting contemporary music with insight, honesty, and temperament" (*New York Times*). Her CD of Luigi Nono's *La Lontananza Nostalgica Utopica Futura* for violin and electronics was named Best Classical Recording of 2012 by the *New York Times*. Recent highlights include her performance of Walter Piston's concerto at Carnegie Hall with the American Symphony Orchestra, and the world premiere of Harold Meltzer's *Kreisleriana* for violin and piano, commissioned by the Library of Congress. Ms. Cuckson made her recital debut at

Carnegie's Weill Hall as winner of the Presser Award, and has worked with many of today's finest composers including Carter, Haas, Dutilleux, Sciarrino, Adams, Crumb, Lachenmann, Saariaho and Davidovsky. She studied at The Juilliard School, where she was awarded her doctorate with high honors.

BLAIR MCMILLEN

Blair McMillen has established himself as one of the most sought-after and versatile pianists today. Recent performances include solo appearances with the American Symphony Orchestra in Carnegie Hall, Albany Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Caramoor, Miller Theatre, Institute for Advanced Study, and Music from Copland House. His first CD *Soundings*, featuring the music of Debussy, Scriabin, Liszt, and Bolcom, was released to wide critical acclaim. Other recent solo recordings include *Powerhouse Pianists* on Lumiere, *Concert Music of Fred Hersch* on Naxos, and *Multiplicities: Born in '38* on Centaur. Pianist for the Naumburg Award-winning Da Capo Chamber Players, Mr. McMillen plays with the American Modern Ensemble and the six-piano team Grand Band, among others. He is a graduate of the Juilliard School, Oberlin College, and the Manhattan School of Music.

ALYSSA PARK

Alyssa Park established an enviable international reputation at age sixteen for being the youngest prizewinner in the history of the Tchaikovsky International Competition. She has made numerous recital and orchestral appearances in the U.S. and abroad. She

made her European debut with Sir Colin Davis and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra. She has performed as a soloist with the Japan Philharmonic, the Singapore Symphony, Berlin Radio Orchestra, Frankfurt Radio Orchestra, Lisbon Symphony, Munich Philharmonic, Lausanne Chamber Orchestra, Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, Austrian Radio Symphony, the Czech Philharmonic, and the Hamburg Philharmonic. Recent seasons included performances at Italy's Ravello Festival and Holland's Royal Concertgebouw. Ms. Park is also a founding member of the Lyris Quartet, which is based in Los Angeles. Lyris is the quartet-in-residence at the highly acclaimed Jacaranda music series.

KATHLEEN SLOAN

Los Angeles based violinist Kathleen Sloan is active as a soloist, and is a member of the Sonus Quartet and the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. She is also a session musician in the film and recording industries. Sloan has performed as a soloist with the San Francisco Symphony, The Dallas Symphony and the Nashville Symphony. She also performed aerial performances of the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with the San Diego Symphony for Cirque Musica. Sloan began violin studies at the age of 3 in Texas, and at 15 was accepted into the Cleveland Institute of Music's Young Artist Program. She later graduated from the University of Southern California.

BRETT BANDUCCI

Violist, composer, and scholar Brett Banducci is currently pursuing his D.M.A. in Music Composition at the University of Southern Cal-

ifornia. He has studied with Stephen Hartke, Frank Ticheli, and Morten Lauridsen, and was the recipient of the Ellis B. Kohs Fellowship in Composition. He has also studied with Sydney Hodkinson at the Aspen Music Festival and School. Brett has written extensively on the works of Austrian composer Ernst Krenek, and has contributed the prefaces to three new editions of Krenek's works for Universal Edition, Vienna. An active freelance violist, Brett has performed with every major Los Angeles-based ensemble, on motion picture and TV scores, as well as on countless albums by many of the recording industry's leading artists. He is currently the composer-in-residence of the Creative Kids Education Foundation, an internet-based arts organization dedicated to music education for youth.

VANESSA FREEBAIRN-SMITH

Vanessa Freebairn-Smith, a native of Los Angeles and founding member of the Sonus Quartet, was trained at the Colburn School of Performing Arts and UCLA and now records and performs as a cellist in a wide range of musical genres. She has also written and arranged for such bands as The Red Hot Chili Peppers and served as multi-instrumentalist for artists including Sinead O'Connor and Sarah McLachlan. With the Sonus Quartet, she took part in the Juilliard Quartet Seminar and held a residency at the Banff Center and has played on numerous scores for film and television both as a soloist, and orchestral player. Her touring experience includes featured work with Josh Groban, Sia and Gnarls Barkley.

JANE ANTONIA CORNISH

Jane Antonia Cornish is a British Academy Award winning composer who grew up in England and lives in New York City. Her orchestral work in four movements, *Symphony*, was awarded a Special Distinction by the ASCAP Foundation's Rudolf Nissim Prize jury. Jane was Composer-In-Residence at the inaugural Chelsea Music Festival where her piano trio, *Duende*, received its world premiere. *Duende* was commissioned by The Lee Trio, who have been described by *Strad* magazine as "... one of the premiere chamber ensembles on the international stage."

Jane has composed the scores to numerous films, including *Fireflies in the Garden*, which stars Julia Roberts, Ryan Reynolds and Willem Dafoe. Her score to *Island of Lost Souls*, which was recorded by the Danish National Symphony Orchestra and Choir and released by Milan Records, was nominated for a Danish Academy Award and a Movie Music UK Award. Jane has been nominated for *Breakthrough Composer of the Year* by the International Film Music Critics Association, and in 2005, she was honored by the UK Film Council with a "Breakthrough Brit in Hollywood" award. Jane has worked as an orchestrator on the films *Kung Fu Panda*, *Horton Hears A Who* and *Hancock*.

She studied composition at The Royal Northern College of Music with Anthony Gilbert, where she was made a Major Scholar. She received the Royal Northern College of Music Composition Prize and was a recipient of the Associated Board's Most Outstanding Scholar of the Year award. Jane went on to complete her postgraduate degree at the Royal College of Music, London.

CREDITS

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