

The Dvořák Society

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Reviews of CDs and DVDs

Jindra Nečasová Nardelli: Crystals

O'Great Spirit; Krystaly/Crystals; Reliéfy-Reliefs;
Vesmírné katedrály/ Space Cathedrals; Hlas ticha/ The
voice of Silence; Lekniny/Water Lilies; Karty/Cards;
Tchaslav I; Pearl River (Etude for Piano).

Hana Žvachtová (sop.), Martina Pechová (organ), Tomáš
Víšek (pno), Vladislav Borovka (oboe), Violins Two (Iva
and Mark Butler), Jindra Nečasová Nardelli (pno), Trio
Continuo (Jana Bošková flute, Eva Doušová pno and
Hanuš Axmann bass clarinet), Eduard Bayer (violin),
Marek Šedivý (pno).

JNN 60 001 Durata: 76:05min

A glance at the contents of this disc promises an exciting selection of new music, but when it's first put on, it greets you from afar with a hushed voice that only gradually comes nearer as if to draw you in: what you hear is in fact a setting of an American Indian Lakota tribe incantation "*O'Great Spirit whose breath gives life to all the world...*" The work is very attractive and has been widely performed, bringing early success to its Czech composer.

It is the next item on the CD, *Crystals*, that delivers a striking, sharp contrast of a solo piano piece brilliantly played by Tomáš Víšek, Jindra Nečasová Nardelli's husband. The musicians

participating on this disc generally acknowledge him as an important moving spirit behind the recordings of his wife's works. Since aleatorics is one of the techniques she uses, he becomes something of a co-composer in *Crystals* and, later on, *Water Lilies* played by the husband and wife four-hand duo. The random development of elements of the music in performance makes each playing unique – it's live music-making captured on disc!

Further in the vein of impressive virtuosity we have the oboist Vladislav Borovka with *Reliefs* – a three movement work of solo brilliance embellished from time to time with a surprising 'double stop' sustained well below the instrument's bottom limit while the player hums snippets of a melody, the whole effect signalling moments of repose.

A striking contrast again is *The Voice of Silence*, a four-movement work played by Violins Two - another husband and wife team, Iva and Mark Butler. Both Iva, known to many under her Czech name Iva Fleischhansová, and Mark, the second violin of the Chillingirian Quartet, bring a lovely warmth to the music inspired by the graphics of the Czech 20th century artist František Kupka, pioneer of the orphic movement that strove to bring abstract art, notably cubism, closer to music.

To round off the CD the Trio Continuo ensemble, on a lighter note, play a short three-movement work *Cards*, using elements of jazz and rock and enjoying rhythmic high spirits. This is followed by two live recordings – *Tchaslav*, a violin and piano ballad hinted by the composer as being a reflection on lost and secret stories of the human soul, and the *Pearl River* piano etude composed originally for a competition and performed here by Jindra Nečasová Nardelli herself, bringing the enjoyable, gripping and thought-provoking selection of her own music to an end.

Karel Janovický