



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

BRAHMS

REIMAGINED ORCHESTRATIONS

ELEVEN CHORALE PRELUDES
FOR ORGAN, OP. 122
ORCHESTRATED BY VIRGIL THOMSON

BLACK SWAN FOR ORCHESTRA (2010)
(AFTER *INTERMEZZO* IN A MAJOR, OP. 118 NO. 2, BY BRAHMS)
ORCHESTRATED BY BRIGHT SHENG

PIANO QUARTET NO. 1
IN G MINOR, OP. 25
ORCHESTRATED BY ARNOLD SCHOENBERG

MICHAEL STERN
KANSAS CITY
SYMPHONY

A 'PROF.' JOHNSON 24-BIT HDCD® RECORDING

REFERENCE RECORDINGS RR-152

Street Date: June 7, 2024

MICHAEL STERN AND THE KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY—BRILLIANT PERFORMANCES, DAZZLING SOUND!

REFERENCE RECORDINGS® proudly presents an imaginative album of three compositions by Johannes Brahms, in an outstanding interpretation from **Michael Stern** and the **Kansas City Symphony**. It features the first recording of American composer and Kansas City native Virgil Thomson's 1957/8 orchestration of **Brahms: Eleven Chorale Preludes** for organ, op. 122. It also contains the enchanting **Black Swan**, composer Bright Sheng's orchestration of the Brahms Intermezzo for solo piano, op. 118, No. 2, and the beloved and spectacular Arnold Schoenberg orchestration of the **Piano Quartet No. 1** in G Minor, op. 25. Notes writer Ken Meltzer states: "Schoenberg's orchestration is a respectful and affectionate tribute by one great composer to another. It is also a beautiful and at times thrillingly entertaining piece. And to the extent it presents both composers at their least inhibited, the Brahms/Schoenberg Piano Quartet offers a valuable insight into the personalities of two of concert music's most influential figures."

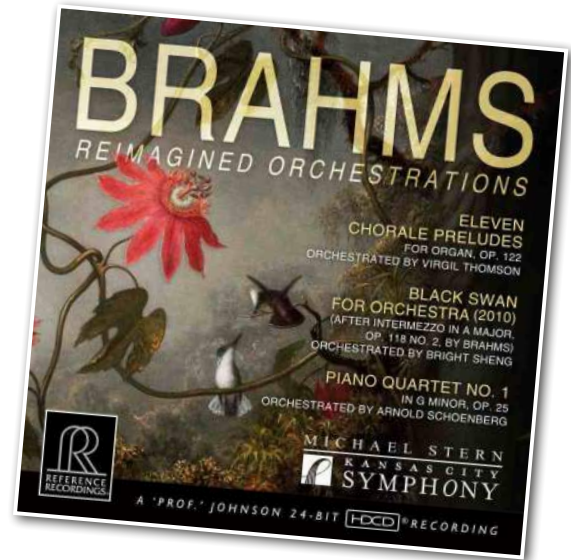
The album was recorded live in the stunning and acoustically acclaimed Helzberg Hall, part of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. The album was produced by Peter Rutenberg, who has over half a century of experience in the music industry as a producer, composer, director, and teacher. Rutenberg was recognized by The Recording Academy in two GRAMMY® categories: as nominee for Classical Producer of the Year in 2011, and winner of Best Small Ensemble Performance of 2006 as a conductor. This album was engineered by RR's esteemed technical team, composed of GRAMMY®-winning engineer 'Prof' Keith O. Johnson and multi-GRAMMY®-nominated engineer Sean Royce Martin.

Michael Stern's celebrated 19-year tenure as music director of the Kansas City Symphony, is notable for the orchestra's remarkable artistic ascent, organizational development, and stability, and the extraordinary growth of its varied audiences. Stern and the orchestra have partnered with Reference Recordings for an ongoing series of highly praised recordings. *Brahms: Reimagined Orchestrations* is the tenth to be released.

For nearly 50 years, REFERENCE RECORDINGS has been one of the most innovative and respected independent labels in the music business. Reference Recordings releases have been highly praised for their dedication to high quality sound in the service of great music. After more than 175 releases, RR is still recording what many consider to be the finest-sounding classical, jazz and blues discs in the world.

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BRAHMS

REIMAGINED ORCHESTRATIONS

ELEVEN CHORALE PRELUDES FOR ORGAN, OP. 122

ORCHESTRATED BY VIRGIL THOMSON

- 1 No. 1 *My Jesus Calls to Me (Mein Jesu, der du mich)* 2:53
- 2 No. 2 *O Blessed Jesus (Herzliebster Jesu)* (two versions) 4:29
- 3 No. 3 *O World, I Now Must Leave Thee (O Welt, ich muss dich lassen)* 2:20
- 4 No. 4 *My Faithful Heart Rejoices (Herzlich tut mich erfreuen)* 1:20
- 5 No. 5 *Deck Thyself, My Soul (Schmücke dich, O liebe Seele)* 1:28
- 6 No. 6 *Blessed Are Ye Faithful Souls (O wie selig seid ihr doch, ihr Frommen)* 1:07
- 7 No. 7 *O God, Thou Faithful God (O Gott, du frommer Gott)* 5:18
- 8 No. 8 *Behold, a Rose is Blooming (Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen)* 2:39
- 9 No. 9 *My Heart is Filled with Longing (Herzlich tut mich verlangen)* 2:01
- 10 No. 10 *My Heart is Filled with Longing (Herzlich tut mich verlangen)* (second setting) 2:01
- 11 No. 11 *O World, I Now Must Leave Thee (O Welt, ich muss dich lassen)* (second setting) 2:49

12 BLACK SWAN FOR ORCHESTRA (2010) 7:04

(AFTER *INTERMEZZO IN A MAJOR*, OP. 118 NO. 2, BY BRAHMS)

ORCHESTRATED BY BRIGHT SHENG

PIANO QUARTET NO. 1 IN G MINOR, OP. 25

ORCHESTRATED BY ARNOLD SCHOENBERG

- 13 I. *Allegro* 14:16
- 14 II. *Intermezzo* 8:21
- 15 III. *Andante con moto* 11:13
- 16 IV. *Rondo alla zingarese* 9:16

MICHAEL STERN
KANSAS CITY
SYMPHONY

TOTAL TIME: 78:36

Producer: Peter Rutenberg
Recording Engineer: Keith O. Johnson
Recorded By: Sean Royce Martin
Mastering Engineer: Sean Royce Martin

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