



New Release - Press Information



ARTIST(S): Murray McLachlan
COMPOSER(S): Ronald Stevenson (b1926)
TITLE: Piano Music
CATALOGUE NUMBER: DDA21372
RELEASE DATE: 21st January 2013 [Bar Code 0809730137228]
PRICE POINT: 3CD Special Price/Gloss Finish Digipak (UK Dealer £16.00)

Track Listing:

CD1: Komm, süßer Tod, BWV 478 (Bach/Stevenson); Prelude and Chorale (An Easter Offering); L'art du chant appliqué au piano Volume 1; L'art du chant appliqué au piano Volume 2; Pénées sur des Préludes de Chopin; variations – Study on a Chopin Waltz; Etudette d'après Korsakov et Chopin; Three Contrapuntal Studies on Chopin Waltzes; **CD2:** Le Festin d'Alkan; Concerro for solo piano without orchestra; Sonata no. 1 in G minor (Ysaÿe/Stevenson); Sonata no. 2 (Ysaÿe/Stevenson); Norse Elegy; Canonic Caprice on 'The Bat'; **CD3:** Fantasy for Mechanical Organ, K608 (Mozart/Stevenson); Romanze from Concerto in D minor k466 (Mozart/realised Stevenson); Melody on a ground of Glazunov; Ricordanza di San Romerio (A Pilgrimage for Piano); Three Grounds (Purcell/Stevenson); Toccata (Purcell/Stevenson); Little jazz Variations on Purcell's 'New Scotch Tune'; Hornpipe (Purcell, freely transcribed for piano); The Queen's Dolour - A Farewell (Purcell/realised Stevenson); Two Music Portraits; Three Elizabethan Pieces after John Bull

Total Playing Time 217.00

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Repertoire/Product Information:

Born on March 6 1928 in Blackburn, Lancashire to working class parents of Scots and Welsh ancestry, Ronald Stevenson is an extraordinary figure, a composer-pianist in the grand tradition who has always worked with the highest ideals and fierce integrity. Stevenson trained at the Royal Manchester College of Music and the Conservatorio Santa Cecilia in Rome before settling in Scotland from the 1950s to follow a remarkable artistic path which has in many ways continued the work of the great composer-pianists of the past.

He has written nearly 500 piano pieces, and though a significant proportion of these are virtuosic and challengingly complex by any standards, there are many that are colourfully approachable for relatively modest players in the early years of learning. In addition to this extraordinary pianistic oeuvre, Stevenson's compositions include three hundred songs, two piano concertos, a sixty-minute long *Violin Concerto*, a *Cello Concerto* and a monumental choral-orchestral composition entitled *Ben Dorain*.

Apart from composing, presenting and writing, Stevenson has given countless piano recitals, concerto performances and broadcasts for the BBC over the years.

Much of Stevenson's output stems directly from re-arrangement and transcription of pieces which have profoundly moved him as an artist, and this new series of three discs most certainly shows this. Almost all of the featured pieces are new to the catalogue.

Artist Information:

"Murray McLachlan is a pianist with a virtuoso technique and a sure sense of line. His timing and phrasing are impeccable, and his tone-full but unforced in the powerful passages, gentle and restrained in the more lyrical- is a perpetual delight" (BBC Music Magazine)

Since making his professional debut in 1986 at the age of 21 under the baton of Sir Alexander Gibson, Murray McLachlan has consistently received outstanding critical acclaim. Educated at Chetham's School of Music and Cambridge University, his mentors included Ronald Stevenson, David Hartigan, Ryszard Bakst, Peter Katin and Norma Fisher. His recording career began in 1988 and immediately attracted international attention. Recordings of contemporary music have won numerous accolades, including full star ratings, as well as 'rosette' and 'key recording' status in the Penguin Guide to CDs, and 'Disc of the month' and 'Record of the month' in MusicWeb and *The Herald*. McLachlan's discography now includes over forty commercial recordings, including the complete sonatas of Beethoven, Myaskovsky and Prokofiev, the six concertos of Alexander Tchernin, the 24 *Preludes and Fugues* of Rodion Shchedrin, Ronald Stevenson's *Passacaglia on DSCH* the major works of Kabalevsky, Khachaturian and the complete solo piano music of Erik Chisholm.

McLachlan's repertoire includes over 40 concertos and 25 recital programmes. He has performed the complete Beethoven piano sonata cycle four times, as well as the



complete piano music of Brahms. He has given first performances of works by many composers, including Martin Butler, Ronald Stevenson, Charles Camilleri, Michael Parkin and even Beethoven! He has appeared as soloist with most of the leading UK orchestras. His recognition has been far-reaching, bringing invitations to perform on all five continents. At the same time he continues to give numerous concerts and master classes in the UK.

McLachlan teaches at the Royal Northern College of Music and at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester where he has been Head of Keyboard since 1997. He is the founder of the Manchester International Concerto competition for young pianists as well as the Founder/Artistic Director of the world famous Chetham's International Summer school and festival for Pianists, Europe's largest summer school devoted exclusively to the piano. As a teacher McLachlan continues to be very busy and in demand. Many of his students have won prizes in competitions and continued with their own successful careers as performers.

Murray McLachlan is editor of 'Piano Professional' Magazine, as well as Chair of the UK section of the European Piano Teachers' Association (EPTA UK). As well as performing and teaching, he is well known internationally for his numerous articles on Piano technique and repertoire. This includes extended columns which have appeared in 'International Piano' 'Pianist' and 'Piano' Magazines. In 2012 he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Dundee for outstanding services to music and education. This follows on from a knighthood awarded in 1997 by the Order of St John of Jerusalem in recognition of his services to music in Malta.

www.murraymclachlan.com

Additional Details & Marketing:

The CD will be fully serviced to all UK classical music press and radio.

Advertising will include major classical music magazines and publications.

For more details, and to request a review sample, please contact John Cronin at Music & Media Consulting Limited.