New Release - Press Information

**ARTIST(S):** Roderick Chadwick (pno)/Kreutzer Quartet

**COMPOSER(S):** Edvard Grieg/Michael Finnissy

**CATALOGUE NUMBER:** MSV28541 [Bar Code 0809730854125]

**RELEASE DATE:** 3rd February 2014

**PRICE POINT:** Single CD/Standard Case/Full Price (UK Dealer £7.95)

**Track Listing:**

Grieg: Piano Quintet in B flat major EG.118 (completed by Michael Finnissy); Finnissy: Grieg Quintettsatz
**Repertoire/Product Information:**

Grieg wrote roughly 250 bars of a Piano Quintet in his ‘Kladdebok’ (sketchbook), immediately before the revisions that he made to ‘Peer Gynt’ for performances in 1892. This quintet ‘torso’ follows Sonata principles similar to those found in Brahms or Franck. He also made some use here of earlier sketches for a second Piano Concerto (1883 - 87). The manuscript, held in the Bergen Public Library, has been published in Volume 20 of the *Grieg Gesamtausgabe* [C.F.Peters, Frankfurt], and in *Edvard Grieg: The Unfinished Chamber Music* [A-R Editions, Inc. Middleton, Wisconsin], neither edition attempting to extend the work.

After some general research and experimentation with the material, Finnissy decided to fashion a one-movement Kammersymphonie, in which the central ‘development section’ following on from Grieg’s exposition, consists of a scherzo (a Halling, with imitation of Hardanger fiddle music) and a ruminative slow movement (in the manner of the Poetic Tone-pictures’ Op.3), which then proceeds to a recapitulation-finale in which some of the material previously assigned to the strings appears in the piano part, and vice versa. This labour of love began in 2007 and produced two successive, but unsatisfactory, versions, both of which were performed in London. Final alterations and revisions were completed in the late Spring of 2012, approximately 120 years after Grieg laid down his pen, and - appropriately enough – received a definitive performance at the 2013 Bergen International Festival, by the Kreutzer String Quartet and Roderick Chadwick.

As Finnissy had decided to complete the Grieg Piano Quintet in B flat (EG118) as seamlessly, and as closely to the manner of Grieg, as possible, he thought – for fun – that he might shadow that ‘creative journey’ with one that was wholly his own, starting from a virtually identical point, but then diverging at the same moment that he had (in disguise) taken over from Grieg.

The exposition of this Quintet-movement, up to the break, follows Grieg’s Piano Quintet structure (and textural outlines) quite closely, drawing on sources and influences that were available to, even if not directly declared by, Grieg. The exposition closes with an extension of the first Scherzo-Halling that Finnissy wrote for EG 118. After the exposition-repeat the Quintettsatz behaves rather differently to the B flat Quintet, but delivering an equally satisfying listening experience.

**Artist Information:**

Described by the *Sunday Times* as “possessor of devastating musicality and technique”, pianist **Roderick Chadwick** combines his wide-ranging activity on the concert platform with diverse teaching and research interests. He has performed at many of Britain’s most prominent venues, including the Free Trade Hall in Manchester, Wigmore Hall and Aldeburgh Festival, and made his London Southbank debut playing the Tippett Piano Concerto at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

During the mid 1990s he performed the complete piano works of Olivier Messiaen, and
continues to research Messiaen’s music and that of his students. In 2007 he was appointed Artistic Advisor to the Royal Academy of Music for its collaboration with the Southbank Centre in London’s year-long Messiaen Centenary Festival. Roderick Chadwick has collaborated with artists such as Chloë Hanslip, Narimichi Kawabata, Peter Sheppard Skaerved and the Kreutzer Quartet, performing widely in Europe, the United States and Asia, including recitals at Seoul Arts Centre, Auditorium du Louvre, Schloss Elmau, Tokyo Opera City and Kioi Hall. He is a member of the ensembles CHROMA and Plus-Minus, making recent appearances at the Huddersfield, Ultima (Oslo) and TRANSIT (Leuven) Festivals. He broadcasts regularly on BBC Radio 3 and has recorded for several different labels. He lives in London and teaches at the Royal Academy of Music.

The **Kreutzer Quartet** are the dedicatees of hundreds of new works, both collectively and as soloists. Composers that have composed for them include Judith Weir, Hans Werner Henze, George Rochberg, Jörg Widmann, Gloria Coates, David Matthews, Halldór Halldórsson, Elliott Schwartz, Michael Finnissy, Nicola LeFanu, Peter Dickinson, Luca Mosca, Evis Sammoutis, Thomas Simaku, Nigel Clarke, David Gorton, Richard Beaudoin, John Zorn, Edward Cowie, Paul Pellay, Judith Bingham, Poul Ruders, Jeremy Dale Roberts, Michael Alec Rose, Jim Aitchison, Roger Steptoe, Howard Skempton, Dmitri Smirnov, Michael Hersch, Sadie Harrison, Rolf Martinsson and Robert Saxton.

They are quartet in residence at Wilton’s Music Hall in London.

**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.