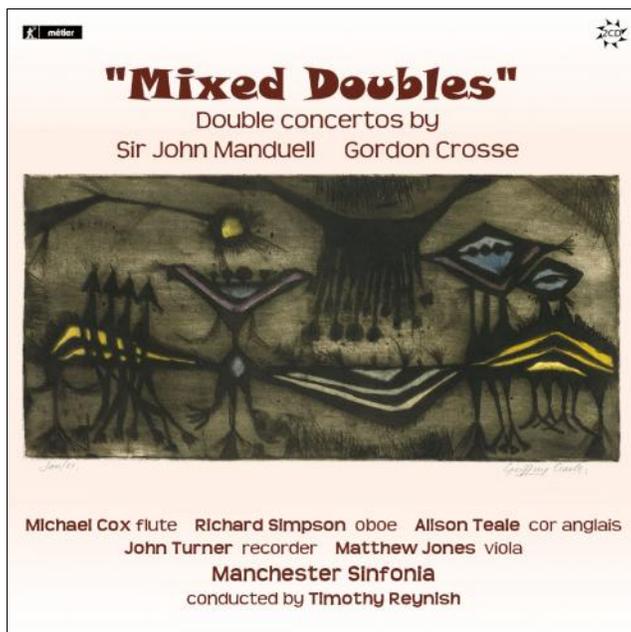




## New Release - Press Information



**ARTIST(S):** Manchester Sinfonia et al

**COMPOSER(S):** Gordon Crosse (b1937) and Sir John Manduell (b1928)

**TITLE:** Mixed Doubles

**CATALOGUE NUMBER:** MSV77201 [Bar Code 0809730720123]

**RELEASE DATE:** 10<sup>th</sup> June 2013

**PRICE POINT:** 2CD Slimline/Special Price [UK PPD £10.20]

### Track Listing:

**CD1 Crosse:** Brief Encounter for oboe d'amore, recorder & strings (2009); Concerto for viola and strings with French horn (2009); Fantasia on "Ca'the Yowes" for recorder, harp and strings (2009); **CD2 Manduell:** Flutes Concerto for flautist, harp, strings and percussion (2000); Double Concerto for oboe, cor anglais, strings and percussion (1985/2012)  
Total Playing Time: 102.18

Featuring Michael Cox (flute); Richard Simpson (oboe); Alison Teale (cor anglais); John Turner (recorder); matthew Jones (viola); Manchester Sinfonia conducted by Timothy Reynish.



## Composer & Repertoire Information

This 2CD set presents a number of works that can be classed as “double concertos” by two leading composers of today. All works are highly accessible, but at the same time quite challenging for the soloists. In every case, this collection is the first time these pieces have been committed to a commercial recording.

**GORDON CROSSE** was born in Bury, Lancashire, in 1937, and is one of the most distinguished composers of his generation. He studied at Oxford University under Bernard Rose and Egon Wellesz, and later with Goffredo Petrassi in Rome. His university appointments include Birmingham, Essex, the University of California Santa Barbara and King's College Cambridge, where he was Composer-in-Residence from 1973 to 1975. Crosse's best known works include the oboe concertante *Ariadne*, the Three Choirs Festival Oratorio *Changes*, the opera *Purgatory* (being one of the first operas presented at the then recently opened Royal Northern College of Music), the children's entertainment *Meet my Folks*, to words by Ted Hughes, the orchestral *Dreamsongs* (a homage to the music of Benjamin Britten) and *Memories of Morning: Night* (a monodrama for mezzo-soprano and orchestra inspired by Jean Rhys's novel *Wide Sargasso Sea*).

Crosse has now resumed composition after a gap of some eighteen years. Recent works include three more string quartets, an anthem for Blackburn Cathedral, a trio for oboe violin and cello, a violin sonatina, and several large orchestral works, in addition to the three compositions on this collection.

**SIR JOHN MANDUELL** was born in 1928 in Johannesburg, where his father had taken a post as a school headmaster. The family returned to England in 1938 and, Manduell read Modern Languages at Jesus College, Cambridge. He was subsequently awarded a Performing Right Society Scholarship for postgraduate study at the Royal Academy of Music where his composition tutors were William Alwyn and Lennox Berkeley. He then enjoyed a varied and successful career at the BBC, where he was successively a staff music producer, producer to the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Head of Music for the Midlands and East Anglia and ultimately responsible for setting up the BBC's first all day music broadcasting service, initially called the Music Programme and now Radio 3. At the age of 40 he then entered academic life as Director of Music at the new Lancaster University before becoming in 1971 the founding Principal of the Royal Northern College of Music.

Although his output is relatively small, his compositions have appeared at intervals throughout his career. Works retained from his student days include his *String Trio* and a short group of songs setting French renaissance poets. During the time he was at Lancaster and in Manchester he wrote such works as his *String Quartet*, *Gradi* for chamber ensemble and his *Diversions* for chamber orchestra. There followed, in due course, the *Double Concerto* in its original form. Since his retirement from the RNCM his principal works have been a song-cycle, *Into the Ark*, to words by Carmen Bernos de Gasztold translated by Rumer Godden, a large orchestral work, *Vistas*, commissioned by the Hallé Orchestra, a *Nonet for Strings* and the *Flutes Concerto* commissioned by Kent Nagano for the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra.

## Artist Information:

**Manchester Sinfonia** is a vibrant professional orchestra which serves a variety of purposes such as making CDs of music by living composers, accompanying choral societies and performing concerts either as self promotions or engagements. Its members represent the cream of musicians in and around Manchester which is the key to producing exceptional performances of



the highest quality. The orchestra made its debut at the Carlisle Festival. It has since performed throughout the north of England. More information about Manchester Sinfonia can be found online at [www.manchestersinfonia.co.uk](http://www.manchestersinfonia.co.uk)

**Timothy Reynish** was a music scholar at Cambridge, working under Raymond Leppard and Sir David Willcocks, and after graduating held principal horn positions with the Northern Sinfonia, Sadler's Wells Opera (now ENO) and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. His conducting studies were on short courses with George Hurst, Sir Charles Groves and Sir Adrian Boult. He subsequently conducted many professional orchestras, including appearances at the Proms and internationally.

**Matthew Jones** is widely acknowledged as one of the leading violists of his generation. Equally at home as soloist or chamber musician performing classical or contemporary repertoire or improvising, recent performance venues include London's Wigmore Hall and South Bank and a critically acclaimed Carnegie Hall recital debut in 2008. He is violist of The Bridge Duo and the Debussy Ensemble.

**Michael Cox** is one of Britain's foremost flute-players. As a chamber musician he has performed with many well known British quartets, quintets and ensembles, as well as being a member, at various times, of the Haffner and Albion wind ensembles, London Symphony Chamber Players and London Sinfonietta. Other positions he has held include co-principal with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, principal flute of the London Symphony Orchestra, London Mozart Players and Britten Sinfonia. He now holds what he considers an ideal portfolio of tenures combining the principal flute chairs of a symphony orchestra, chamber orchestra and a contemporary music ensemble - namely the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Academy of St Martin's in the Fields and the London Sinfonietta.

**Richard Simpson** studied at The Royal College of Music and was appointed by Pierre Boulez to the position of sub-principal oboe with the BBC Symphony Orchestra - a position he held for just one year, before being invited to join the Halle Orchestra as Principal Oboe. He spent eighteen years with that orchestra. In 1991 he returned to the BBC Symphony Orchestra, this time as Principal Oboe, a position he still holds, as well as being involved in various chamber music activities connected with the orchestra. He is a member of the Syrinx Trio, with Michael Cox.

**Alison Teale** is the principal cor anglais player with the BBC Symphony Orchestra. She has performed numerous concertos for BBC Radio 3. Alison enjoys giving regular master classes, performing solo and chamber music recitals and the variety that come from freelance work.

**John Turner** is one of the leading recorder players of today. He was Senior Scholar in Law at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, and as a practising solicitor acted for many leading musicians and musical organisations, being also involved in the establishment of many musical charities. He has premiered over 500 works for his instrument, including concertos written for him by Kenneth Leighton, Anthony Gilbert, Gordon Crosse, John Casken, Stephen Dodgson, Elis Pehkonen, John Gardner, Peter Hope and many others. His discoveries include recorder works by Handel, John Parry, Rawsthorne and Antony Hopkins. His own recorder compositions are standard repertoire and examination pieces for the instrument worldwide.

#### **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.