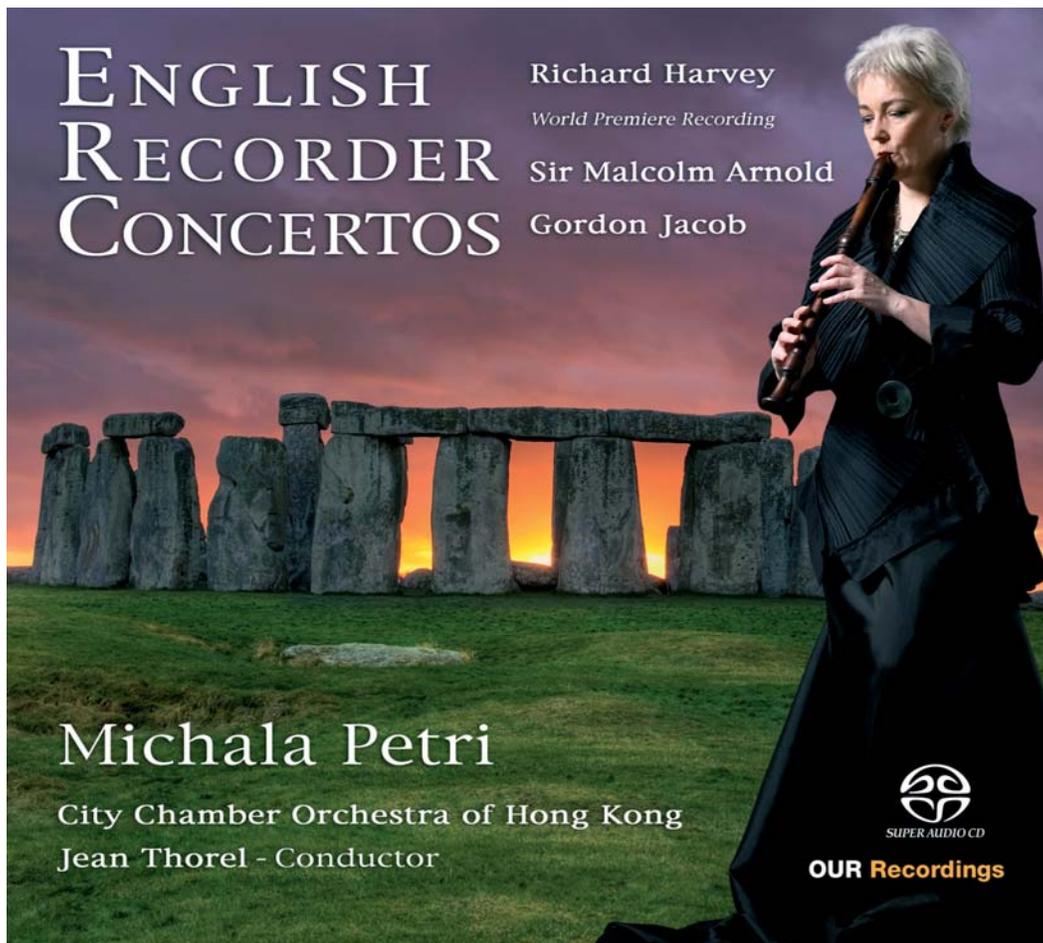


OUR Recordings



English Recorder Concertos

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Dealer Price: £8.69 **Release Date May 7th 2012**

Tracklisting

Richard Harvey (b1953):	Concerto Incantato (2009)
Sir Malcolm Arnold (1921-2006):	Concerto for Recorder and Orchestra Op. 133 (1988)
Gordon Jacob (1895-1984):	Suite for Recorder and Strings (1957)

- World Premiere Recording of Richard Harvey's "Concerto Incantato"
- The only available recording of Malcolm Arnold's late concerto
- Featuring The City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong conducted by Jean Thorel
- Recorded in state-of-the-art Super Audio Sound

Issued on behalf of OUR Recordings (www.ourrecordings.com)
by Music & Media Consulting Limited (www.musicandmediaconsulting.com)
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Repertoire Information

The recorder has been part of Western music for more than seven hundred years, during which time it has enjoyed a particularly special relationship with the composers and musicians of England. The present recording showcases the music of three generations of English composers who have embraced the recorder, making significant contributions to the repertoire in the process. Gordon Jacob, the eldest, composed numerous works for the recorder from the 1950s up until his last year.

Sir Malcolm Arnold was to follow Jacob's example contributing his Concerto for Recorder, originally written for and premiered by Michala Petri. Arnold's amphibious existence as a composer for both film and the concert hall is echoed in the career of our youngest contributor, the BAFTA award-winning composer and recorder player Richard Harvey.

The result is pure musical enchantment! Jacob's delightful Suite has been a mainstay for recorder players (and an audience favourite) since its premiere, while Arnold's rarely performed concerto is a late masterwork truly deserving a wider audience makes a most welcome return to the catalogue. The program is capped off by Harvey's magical Concerto Incantato (composed especially for Michala) - a true concert piece for today's generation.

"The highlight of the evening came... with the world premiere of Richard Harvey's Concerto Incantato, a work written specifically for this concert and for Michala Petri and five (or perhaps it was six?) of her recorders... Harvey's work brings together a broad range of musical influences...oozing walls of warm string harmony and a distinct story-telling quality – a highly consumable work commandingly performed." - Mark Tjhung, Time Out Hong Kong

Artist Information

Born in Copenhagen 7th of July 1958, **Michala Petri** began playing the recorder at the age of three and was first heard on Danish Radio when she was five. Her concert debut took place at the Tivoli Concert Hall in 1969, the year she began her studies with Professor Ferdinand Conrad at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Hannover. Since then she has toured extensively throughout the world, performing with musicians such as Pinchas Zukerman, James Galway, Joshua Bell, Maurice André, Keith Jarrett, Gidon Kremer and Claudio Abbado and as soloist with many of the world's major chamber and symphony orchestras. In addition to maintaining a vigorous performing schedule, Michala Petri has produced a large and eclectic catalogue of award winning recordings, including two Deutsche Schallplattenpreis winning discs of Vivaldi Concerti, with Vladimir Spivakov and the Moscow Virtuosi (1997), and *Kreisler Inspirations* with Lars Hannibal (2002), the Grammy® nominated *Movements*, two discs of Bach and Handel Sonatas with Keith Jarrett and the critically acclaimed *Los Angeles Street Concerto*: Michala Petri plays Thomas Koppel, which received the Danish Music Award as Best Classical Album in 2006.

In 1992 she formed a duo with Danish guitarist and lute player Lars Hannibal, with whom she tours all over the world. In 2006 the two musicians launched the record label OUR Recordings. The new label was established with the purpose of providing the artists with an independent platform for their continuing artistic explorations, free from stylistic or commercial constraints. With more than a dozen releases to date, the OUR Recordings catalogue has embraced World Music (*Siesta* and *Spirits*), the standard repertoire (*Virtuoso Baroque*; *Mozart Flute Quartets*; *Melodies*; *Giuliani works for Violin and Guitar* and *Lalo's Symphonie Espagnole*), classical rarities (*Café Vienna*), contemporary concertos, including the Grammy® nominated *Movements* and the on-going *East meets West* series (*Dialogue* and *Chinese Recorder Concertos*). Her last release "*The Nightingale*" – featuring Nordic Music for Choir and Recorder has been widely acclaimed.

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The City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong (CCOHK) holds a unique position as one of the most active chamber orchestras in the Asian region. Comprising an international group of professional musicians living in Hong Kong and Asia, the CCOHK gives an annual subscription series of concerts with locally and internationally renowned artists. The orchestra's programming spans a wide repertoire, from Baroque to contemporary Chinese compositions and newly-commissioned works.

On tour, the CCOHK has made its mark in China and at the Thirteenth Mostra Biennale di Liuteria nel Mezzogiorno Festival in Italy. In Hong Kong itself, the CCOHK has performed for Le French May, the Hong Kong International Arts Carnival, the Second Hong Kong International Piano Competition and RTHK Radio 4's annual Christmas in the Park concerts, televised by RTHK.

Since its formation in 1999 by oboist and Artistic Director Leanne Nicholls, the CCOHK has performed with many great artists including Michala Petri, Dame Emma Kirkby, Dame Evelyn Glennie, Alexander Rudin, Michael Chance, Takako Nishizaki, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Giovanni Sollima, Daniel Binelli, and Karl Jenkins. The CCOHK often broadcasts on RTHK Radio 4 and has appeared on TV in Hong Kong, mainland China, Australia and Spain. In 2003 the Hong Kong Arts Development Council honoured the CCOHK with the Rising Artist Award, for outstanding contribution to music in Hong Kong.

Frenchman **Jean Thorel**, chief conductor of the City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong since 2008, has given over four hundred world premieres. In 1989, he won the Vocation Foundation Prize for outstanding work with the Stringendo Orchestral Ensemble in Paris, where he has been permanent conductor since 1984. Jean Thorel conducts a wide range of music, from ballet to chamber and orchestral programmes.

He has appeared as a guest conductor throughout Europe with the Swedish Chamber Orchestra, the Danish Chamber Players, Musica Vitae, Musiques Nouvelles, the EQ Ensemble in Ireland, the Copenhagen Royal Ballet, the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, the Aarhus Symphony Orchestra, the Stockholm Lans Symfoniker and the Nice Philharmonic Orchestra.

A passionate promoter of new and rare music, Thorel is a regular conductor at major contemporary music festivals and has recorded over twenty CDs. His recording of works by Louis Saguer with the Moscow Contemporary Music Ensemble was joint winner of the 2002 Académie du Disque Lyrique Orphée d'Or, alongside Pierre Boulez's interpretation of Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde. Thorel was also the first French conductor invited to record with the Russian National Orchestra. His teachers included Jean-Jacques Werner, Léon Barzin, Antal Dorati and André Girard.

Further Information

"English Recorder Concertos" will be fully serviced to press and advertising will include the main classical music magazines. Further advertising is planned in due course. For a review copy and any further information, please contact John Cronin at Music & Media Consulting.

Full details of all discs issued to date can be viewed at www.ourrecordings.com