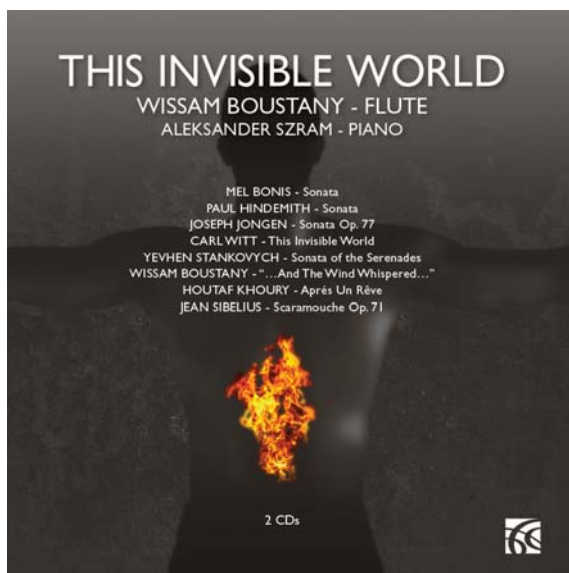


NEW RELEASE INFORMATION FOR PRESS/MEDIA



Artist(s):	Wissam Boustany & Aleksander Szram
Composer:	Various
Title:	This Invisible World
Repertoire:	Works for Flute & Piano
Catalogue No:	NI6170/1 [0710357617027]
Discs:	2CD Slimline Box
UK PPD:	£12.15
UK Release:	28 November 2011

Tracklisting

CD1: Mel Bonis: Sonata; Paul Hindemith: Sonata; Joseph Jongen: Sonata Op. 77 **CD2:** Carl Witt: This Invisible World; Yevhen Stankovych: Sonata of the Serenades; Wissam Boustany: "And The Wind Whispered"; Houtaf Khoury: Apres Un Rêve; Jean Sibelius: Scaramouche Op. 71

CD Repertoire Information

Wissam Boustany writes:

"As a musician, I have always deeply admired visually impaired people. My initial fascination centered on their highly sensitized and refined sense of hearing, which is so crucial to their day-to-day survival and should be a total revelation to any serious musician. But my respect goes far beyond their hearing skills...into their inner world – a world of determination, resilience, courage and deep sensitivity.

This Invisible World is inspired by the blind...but dedicated to the world within us all...the world that defines our deeper reality, which remains elusively invisible to the eye. I plan to use this recording as a catalyst for a Towards Humanity initiative supporting the blind and raising awareness about their challenges and achievements.

I hope you enjoy this double-cd release. The first CD features romantic and impressionistic music, while the second cd consists of works that have been written for me over the last years, including a work of my own, and finishes with Scaramouche Op. 71 by Sibelius - one of the most poignant melodies I have ever heard."

Additional Details & Marketing

Two vibrant musicians performing together on stage...nothing unusual about that...but witnessing Wissam and Aleksander in recital is a different experience. Why? Because they both perform and record from memory, creating an umbilical cord between themselves, the music and their audience; a truly rare phenomenon on the music scene today.

The CD will be fully serviced to all UK classical music press and radio and key media overseas. Advertising will include major classical music magazines and publications. Interviews with both Wissam and Aleksander can be quickly arranged. Four further CD titles featuring Wissam Boustany will be re-released by Nimbus Alliance early in 2012.



Artist Information

Wissam Boustany's international career as a concert artist and teacher has taken him to South and North America, Europe and the Middle and Far East. In 1995 Boustany founded *Towards Humanity*, an international initiative which uses music as a catalyst to support humanitarian projects on an international scale. Born in Lebanon, Boustany began his musical studies with his stepfather. He moved to Britain in 1977 where he studied at Chetham's School of Music & the Royal Northern College of Music, with Trevor Wye. He has received many awards, notably the Silver Medal in the 1982 Madeira International Flute Competition and (in the same year) the woodwind prize in the Royal Overseas League Competition. He received the silver medal in the Shell/LSO competition and won the 2nd prize in the woodwind section of the first BBC Young Musician of the Year. In 1997 he was awarded a knighthood by the Lebanese government (*Chevalier de l'Ordre du Cedre*) in recognition of his music and peace work. On 3rd February 1998 he was presented with the *Crystal Award* at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Wissam continues to use his music as a powerful healing force to 'open the doors of inspiration between people and nations, and help us reflect on our common humanity'. He is Professor of Flute at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, UK. For more information: www.wissamboustany.com

Aleksander Szram enjoys a varied schedule of solo piano, concerto and chamber music performances across the world, having played in more than thirty countries over four continents. He was awarded the Wilner Scholarship to study at Trinity College of Music under Anthony Green and Douglas Finch, where he won prizes for piano, chamber music, vocal accompaniment and composition. Upon graduation, Aleksander was awarded the TCM Trust Silver Medal, as well as the Haynes Scholarship, the Stopford Scholarship and the Joan Greenfield Fellowship to fund his study for a MMus Degree, which he passed with Distinction. He was subsequently awarded the Worshipful Company of Musicians' Silver Medal for Excellence in Performance, and the Wilfred Stiff Prize. Aleksander has also studied with Martino Tirimo, Mikhail Kazakevich and Yonty Solomon. Aleksander completed his DMA on a full scholarship at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, where he studied piano with Jane Coop, and harpsichord and organ with Doreen Oke.

Aleksander is particularly interested in contemporary repertoire and has given first performances of works by Frederic Rzewski, Daryl Runswick, Dai Fujikura, Harris Kittos, Anthony Green and Danny Ledesma among others, leading to several releases with the German label Fonorum. He has performed at the major UK venues and many concert societies, including collaborations with Wissam Boustany, Nora Cismondi, Ian Clarke, Paul Edmund-Davies, Philip Fowke, Leonid Gorokhov, Alexander Ivashkin, Jill Kemp, Lorna McGhee, Ian Pace and Andras Adorjan, as well as concertos with Jan Latham-Koenig, Peter Stark and Andrew Morley. Aleksander is an enthusiastic composer, having studied with John Ashton Thomas, Francis Pott and William Benjamin, and also electronic composition with Keith Hamel. He now teaches piano and lectures in performance practice at Trinity College of Music, London. For more information: www.aleksanderszram.com

Concert Information

Wissam and Aleksander are appearing at the Wimbledon Festival in London on 15th November. For full details please visit: http://www.wimbledonmusicfestival.co.uk/15nov_doulberecital.htm

Also on the 15th, Wissam will be teaming up with the soprano Nancy Argenta, in her recital. On 14th November, Wissam performs with the Claude Bolling Trio – also at the Wimbledon Music Festival - performing Bolling's famous "Suite for Flute & Jazz Trio".

In advance of these events Wissam and Aleksander are appearing on BBC R3 "In Tune" on Thursday 10th November.



Towards Humanity

Towards Humanity is an enduring, non-political initiative, taking the form of high-profile concerts, which support a peaceful resolution to conflict, as well as providing a focus for peace organizations and humanitarian work. The founder is international flautist, Wissam Boustany, who grew up in war-torn Beirut. In his own words: *"Music opens the doors of inspiration between people and nations, and helps us reflect on our common humanity..."*

This multi-decade, multi-media initiative combines the energies of musicians, humanitarian organizations, international media networks and influential companies, inspiring a global co-operation for peace outside of the political arena. The inaugural event took place at the Royal Albert Hall, London on February 2nd 1995; its purpose was to provide a platform for peace in the Middle-East and - on a practical level - aimed to raise £20,000 for each of five charities in Beirut, Amman, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Cairo. Since then, numerous concerts, master classes and musical initiatives have successfully raised funds for many countries.

In 1997 Wissam was awarded a knighthood by the Lebanese government (*Chevalier de l'Ordre du Cedre*) in recognition of his music and peace work. On 3rd February 1998 he was presented with the *Crystal Award* at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. During this period Towards Humanity also released two CD recordings, "Wandering Winds" and "Vivaldi's Children" incorporating the *Towards Humanity* concept and principles. This current recording will eventually be used as a catalyst for projects relating to visually impaired people around the world.

For more information please visit www.towardshumanity.org

List of beneficiaries of aid from Towards Humanity

Egypt	Right to Live Association
Jordan	Al Hussein Society
Lebanon	National School for the Blind & Deaf
West Bank	Library on Wheels
Israel	Peace Child
Kazakhstan	Almaty School for the Blind
Kosovo	Refugees
Worldwide	SOS International Children's Villages

