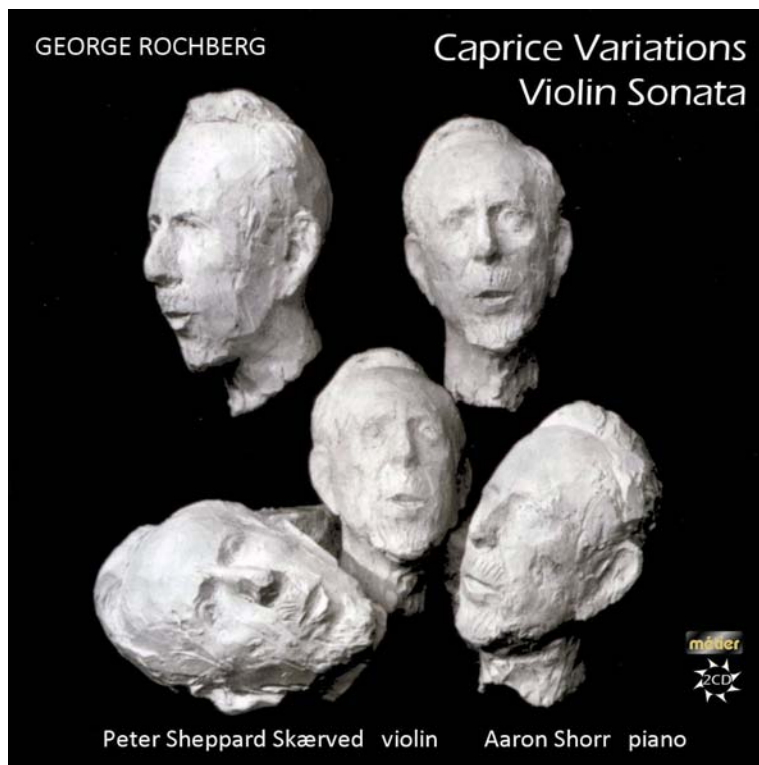




## New Release - Press Information



**ARTIST(S):** Peter Sheppard Skærved (violin)/Aaron Shorr (piano)

**COMPOSER(S):** George Rochberg (1918-2005)

**TITLE:** Caprice Variations/Violin Sonata

**CATALOGUE NUMBER:** MSV28521 [Bar Code 0809730852121]

**RELEASE DATE:** 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2011

**PRICE POINT:** 2CD Slimline at Special Price  
[UK Dealer price £10.20]

**Track Listing:**

Violin Sonata (1988); Caprice Variations (1983)

Total Playing Time: 116.09



### **Repertoire/Product Information:**

Presented here is Skærved's highly regarded recording of the Caprice Variations for solo violin (previously released as MSVCD92065), with the première recording of Rochberg's 1988 Violin Sonata.

George Rochberg is today regarded as one of the most important American composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and his list of published compositions is very impressive.

On release, the recording of the caprice Variations generated the following comment:

*"What a recording!... violinist Skaerved, playing on Francois-Antoine Habeneck's 1734 Strad, handles the work's many terrors with appropriate style and gusto. These are 51 dazzling variations on Paganini's well-worn tune. It's a thrill a minute, and it's outrageous enough to impress Paganini himself" – Allen Gimbel (American Record Guide)*

*"the performance is so compelling that interest never wavers; the recording is fine; and it doesn't matter where the music came from since this magnificent instrument enjoys every note. " - Peter Dickinson (Gramophone)*

*"This quirky, witty, beautiful and often bewildering 90-minute work's sense of shape and purpose feels brilliantly complete." – Catherine Nelson (The Strad)*

*"the journey is an impressive one... I have no hesitation in recommending it" - Peter Grahame Woolf (Musical Pointers)*

*I have to say that Skærved sounds amazing. He's playing the 1734 Habeneck Strad. Kudos to Metier's David Lefeber for capturing the instrument and Skærved's passionate playing. These variations-on-variations have grown on me and it's a treat to hear a Strad sound so good." – Grant Chu Covell (La Folia)*

*"I find this performance to be exceedingly sensitive and technically at a very high level. The Skaerved recording is in better sound [than the Zeitlin version]" – Scott Morrison (Amazon.com)*

### **Artist Information:**

**Peter Sheppard Skærved** is the dedicatee of well over 200 works for solo violin, by composers such as George Rochberg, Judith Weir, Michael Finnissy, Paul Ruders, and Hans Werner Henze. He regularly appears as soloist in over 30 countries. His discography is extensive, ranging from cycles of solo works by Beethoven, Reicha, Cui, and Telemann, the complete quartets of David Matthews, Michael Tippett, and cycles of concerti from Haydn to Henze. He is particularly noted for his performances of Tartini's 30 solo sonatas, and for his one-evening performances of the Bach Sonatas & Partitas.



He has won awards from the BBC Music Magazine, been nominated for a Gramophone Award, as well as a GRAMMY for a concerto recording in 2007. Peter Sheppard Skærved is the founder and leader of the Kreutzer Quartet and the Munich-based Ensemble Triolog. He regularly appears as director and soloist with ensembles such as the Zagreb Soloists and Athelas Sinfonietta Copenhagen.]

Peter Sheppard Skærved is the only British violinist to have been invited to play on Paganini's violin 'Il Cannone' more than once (five times in particular) and gives recitals on the historic instruments at the Library of Congress, Washington. He is also acclaimed for his collaborative work with museums, working regularly with the British Museum, National Portrait Gallery, Tate Galleries, Victoria and Albert Museum and worldwide. He plays on a currently 1698 Stradivari owned by Joseph Joachim from the collections of the Royal Academy of Music.

Since settling in the United Kingdom in 1985, **Aaron Shorr** has gained an increasing reputation for his diverse and highly acclaimed concerts. He studied at the Manhattan School of Music in New York and the Royal Academy of Music in London, his teachers having included Alexander Kelly, Solomon Mikowski, André Watts and Joseph Seiger. He has since toured throughout the world performing concertos, solo recitals and chamber music. Aaron has given countless premières, including works by Hans Werner Henze, George Rochberg, Sadie Harrison, David Matthews, Paul Moravec, Elliott Schwartz, Jörg Widmann and Kenneth Hesketh, to list only the most recent.

Aaron's European festival performances have included the Menuhin Festival in Gstaad, the Munich Biennale, the Montepulciano and Pescara festivals in Italy, the Breda Festival in Holland, the Mitte Europa Festival in Germany, and the Ludlow, Brighton, Chelmsford, Huddersfield, Malvern and Little Missenden Festivals in England.

Aaron's recordings, as well as the ongoing "Beethoven Explored" series for Metier with Peter Sheppard Skærved, with whom he has worked for well over ten years,, also include discs of rare Schubert, music by Cesar Cui, Hans Werner Henze and Sadie Harrison.

In 1992, Aaron was appointed Professor of Piano at the Royal Academy of Music, and since 2007 has been Head of Keyboard and Collaborative Piano at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow

#### **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.