

String Trios from the East

On this new CD the Goeyvaerts String Trio, a group renowned for its interpretations of contemporary music, performs works by four composers who hail from the old Soviet Union and whose music is known for being accessible and deeply felt: Sofia Gubaidulina, Giya Kanchelli, Alexander Knaifel and Oleg Paiberdin.

The Goeyvaerts String Trio was founded in 1997 and focuses exclusively on 20th and 21st century repertoire. It owes its name to the Flemish composer Karel Goeyvaerts who played a key role in the fundamental changes in European new music. The group regularly collaborate with composers such as Peter Swinnen and Giya Kancheli, and performers like Alexander Ivashkin (cellist and biographer of Alfred Schnittke), and Henk Guitart of the Schoenberg Quartet.

All of the music featured on this 2CD set has been written by musicians from different parts of what used to be the Soviet Union, Knaifel and Paiberdin are Russian, Gubaidulina also, though of Tatar heritage, and Kancheli is Georgian. As composers all of them have to different degrees adopted a highly personal and economical approach towards their music, where the sound world incorporated is more readily accessible to the listener. For this recording the Goeyvaerts Trio worked and rehearsed extensively with all of the composers represented on the CD.

“The Goeyvaerts String Trio explore the near-hallucinatory world of Gubaidulina, and fragmentary, distilled atmospheres from Paiberdin and Kancheli. The static, stratospheric music by Knaifel must need performing nerves of ice.” BBC Music Magazine, July 2012