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MAY 8, 2009

Duo Concertante Latest CD Release

These days everybody seems to be releasing CDs, and the market is flooded with new material almost every day. This CD is well worth adding to your collection.

The husband and wife team of violinist Nancy Dahn and pianist Timothy Steeves have scored with their latest CD entitled *It Takes Two*. The CD features works by composers from Mozart to Richard Rodgers, with impressive arrangements by Canadian composer Clifford Crawley. The team acknowledges his talent and skill in the brochure that accompanies the CD, saying that it should have been titled "*It Takes Three*."

The first piece is the ever-popular *Tico Tico*, composed by Brazilian Zequinha de Abreu in 1917. Excellent ensemble, and a nod to Steeves whose virtuosity never takes away from the violinist, but rather enhances her work. In *Lady be Good*, Dahn gives us a lovely violin introduction, which sets the mood for this Gershwin Medley.

Khachaturian's well-known *Sabre Dance* was given a brilliant performance by these two fine artists, and a *Night in Tunisia*, by Dizzy Gillespie was also played with good style and ensemble. *The Lark*, a medley of 'lark' songs, featured some truly beautiful stratospheric violin work, and Prokofieff's *Romeo and Juliet* was executed with just the right amount of rhythmic push.

In the Mozart *Turkish March* from the *Piano Sonata in A major*, we heard Clifford Crawley in a different light. His arrangement for this old war horse was astonishing and brought classical and avant garde together in a remarkable way. The performance was superb.

The most rewarding pieces on the CD, to this listener's ears, were *Solveig's Song* from the *Peer Gynt Suite #2* and the *Valse Triste* by Sibelius. In these two works the playing is worth the price of the CD. In the Grieg, Nancy Dahn sets the mood with a mournfully beautiful introduction, and the performance is exceedingly musical. Dahn sang the work with a complete understanding of Solveig's sadness, and the pianissimo ending was to die for.

Other pieces were the *June Barcarolle*, by Tchaikovsky, in which the interplay of the two instruments was lovely, the *Black Orpheus*, by Luiz Bonfá, which seems too long for this listener, and the Richard Rodgers medley, which was outstanding.

Dahn and Steeves are Professors in the music departments of Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland, and Co/Artistic Directors of the Tuckamore Festival, also in Newfoundland. They are under the management of Kanon Artists, Ltd.

The CD is a product of Marquis Recordings, and is available at all record stores or from info@marquisclassics.com