**KIRCHNER:** *Duo; Flutings; Trio 1; Piano Sonata; Triptych*

Continuum/ Cheryl Seltzer, Joel Sachs

Naxos 559195—65 minutes

In the coming months Naxos will be reissuing a number of Continuum's out-of-print recordings, filled out with new material as appropriate—the recording of *Triptych* did not appear on the original Musical Heritage Society release.

Here we have a collection of solo and small chamber pieces written over the course of 40 years and generally considered to be among Kirchner's best works. (It would have been nice to hear the second piano trio next to the first, but you can't have everything.) These pieces show a remarkable stylistic consistency, taking an approach to craftsmanship—motivic construction, attention to line, rounded corners, hidden seams, and sustained expression—from Kirchner's first major teacher, Arnold Schoenberg, though the student's tonal language is closer to his second teacher, Ernest Bloch. They are given adequate performances that are supple and deeply felt, if sometimes tentative.

One gripe: though most of these pieces are multimovement works intended to be played without pause, we should still have more than one track per work.

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