

NAXOS

FRENCH MUSIC FOR WIND QUINTET

8.557356

Since the early nineteenth century French composers have shown a particular skill and deftness of touch in handling wind instruments. The pattern was set when Anton Reicha, whose composition classes at the Paris Conservatoire included Berlioz, Franck and Gounod, wrote his 24 'Paris' quintets for the unusual combination of flute, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon. In this collection of early to mid 20th-century works, Poulenc's *Sextet* and Ibert's *Trois pièces brèves* are marked by rhythmic vitality and a delicate vein of sentimentality, while Milhaud's *La Cheminée du roi René* reflects the style of Stravinsky's neo-classical period in its spiky harmony. Representing a younger generation of French composers, Jean Françaix shares something of the wit, versatility and assured technique of the group of friends known as *Les Six*, which included Poulenc and Milhaud.

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| 1-3 | Francis Poulenc (1899-1963):
Sextet for piano and wind quintet * | 18:40 |
| 4-6 | Jacques Ibert (1890-1962):
Trois pièces brèves | 6:57 |
| 7-13 | Darius Milhaud (1892-1974):
La Cheminée du roi René, Op. 205 | 12:49 |
| 14-17 | Jean Françaix (1912-1997):
Wind Quintet No. 1 | 20:27 |

The Wind Quintet of the Danish National Symphony Orchestra/DR:
Anna Dina Schick, Flute • Max Artved, Oboe • Søren Elbo, Clarinet
Henning Due Hansen, French Horn • Jens Tofte-Hansen, Bassoon
Ralf Gothóni, Piano *

A complete tracklist may be found in the booklet.
 Recorded in Studio 1, Radio House, Copenhagen,
 3rd and 4th January, and 5th, 6th, 7th and 9th March, 2001
 Recording Producers: Max Artved and Claus Due
 Sound Engineer: Peter Bo Nielsen • Booklet Notes: Keith Anderson
 Cover Image: Landscape at Pontgibaud, c.1895 by Jean Baptiste Armand Guillaumin (1841-1927)
 [www.bridgeman.co.uk / Private Collection]

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Playing Time
58:53

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