

The French composer Olivier Messiaen (1908–1992) bestrides the 20th century as a creative genius of the first magnitude. Throughout his life Messiaen produced a steady stream of masterpieces, informed both by his fervent sense of religious feeling and his unique ear for sound. His use of birdsong and Indian and Greek rhythms gave his music an immediately identifiable character. The *Quartet for the End of Time* was written in 1941 while Messiaen was imprisoned during the Second World War. Using the most sparing and at first sight incompatible instrumentation, he created a haunting musical image of hope in the midst of despair. The *Theme and Variations* for violin and piano is an equally characteristic and immediately accessible work.

**Olivier
MESSIAEN**
(1908–1992)

Quartet for the End of Time

1	I. Liturgie de cristal	45:59
2	II. Vocalise, pour l'Ange qui annonce la fin du Temps	2:36
3	III. Abîme des oiseaux	5:02
4	IV. Intermède	8:21
5	V. Louange à l'Éternité de Jésus	1:44
6	VI. Danse de la fureur, pour les sept trompettes	8:19
7	VII. Fouillis d'arcs-en-ciel, pour l'Ange qui annonce la fin du Temps	6:17
8	VIII. Louange à l'immortalité de Jésus	7:19
9	Theme and Variations	6:23
		10:48

Amici Ensemble

Joaquin Valdepeñas, Clarinet **1–8** • David Hetherington, Cello **1–8**
Patricia Parr, Piano • Scott St. John, Violin

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Producers: Bonnie Silver and Norbert Kraft • Engineer: Norbert Kraft • Editor: Bonnie Silver
Booklet notes: J. Drew Stephen • Cover painting: Original artwork by Leisa Hirtz



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Playing Time
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