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Playing Time  
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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**

45:59

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

**Amici Ensemble**

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

Recorded: 15–16 December 1999 at the River Run Centre, Guelph, Ontario, Canada  
Producers: Bonnie Silver and Norbert Kraft • Engineer: Norbert Kraft • Editor: Bonnie Silver  
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