

Playing
Time:
69:44

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DIGITAL AUDIO

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LC 05537

NAXOS

WALTER PISTON

(1894–1976)

Chamber Music

James Buswell, Michele Walsh,
Dimitry Hall, Anthony Gault, violins
Theodore Kuchar, Randolph Kelly, violas
Judith Glyde, Carol Ou, cello

Michael Gurt, Ian Munro, pianos · Olga Shylayeva, flute

Quintet for Flute and String Quartet (1942) (17:52)

- 1 **Allegro moderato grazioso** (4:53)
- 2 **Andantino con espressione** (6:13)
- 3 **Vivace e leggero** (2:17)
- 4 **Allegro non troppo** (4:19)

String Sextet (1964) (18:04)

- 5 **Adagio espressivo** (10:39)
- 6 **Leggerissimo e vivace assai** (3:19)
- 7 **Energico** (4:01)

Piano Quartet (1964) (14:15)

- 8 **Leggero e scorrevole** (6:00)
- 9 **Adagio sostenuto** (5:17)
- 10 **Allegro vivo** (2:55)

Piano Quintet (1949) (19:13)

- 11 **Allegro comodo** (6:23)
- 12 **Adagio** (7:35)
- 13 **Allegro vivo** (5:13)



Recorded at the Sir George Kneipp Auditorium, James Cook University,
Townsville, Queensland, Australia, from 13th to 19th July 1999.

Producer: Tim Handley • Cover Art: *The Blue Boat* by Winslow Homer
(Private Collection/Bridgeman Art Library, London)

American flag, folk artist, 1880s.



AMERICAN CLASSICS

‘The art of composition is never completed. It is a lifetime’s continuing pursuit,’ wrote the American composer, Walter Piston. Born in 1894, he was a self-taught violinist, pianist and saxophonist, who earned his living playing in dance halls, hotels and restaurants. He was twenty-six before he began to study composition, eventually moving to Paris as a pupil of Dukas and Nadia Boulanger. Though his music was influenced by their teaching, his individuality and Americanism are evident throughout his works. Central to his output were eight fine symphonies, two violin concertos, and the famous ballet, *The Incredible Flutist*. Most of his chamber music came from his later life, and combines his ready sense of good humour with an attractively melodic content.

English Text / Deutscher Text / Texte en français

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