



AMERICAN CLASSICS

The music of distinguished American composer Charles Wuorinen is notable for its compositional wit, dynamic virtuosity and intellectual rigor. This CD features vocal chamber works from the late 1990s to 2007, a new piano work, and Wuorinen's 'remakings' of music by Josquin des Prés. *Ashberyana*, a major new work commissioned by Da Camera of Houston, sets the dazzling poetry of John Ashbery for a tour-de-force ensemble led by the composer. *Fenton Songs I* and *Fenton Songs II* offer contrasting poems by James Fenton, ranging from lyrical confessions of love to the horrors of Tiananmen Square. Two personal solo piano pieces – one dedicated to conductor James Levine – and *Josquiniana*, composed for the Brentano Quartet, complete this compelling portrait of one of today's most important musical voices.

www.naxos.com


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Charles WUORINEN

(b. 1938)

Playing
Time:
61:28

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1-4 | Ashberyana (2004) | 19:00 |
| 5 | Praegustatum (2005) | 2:48 |
| 6-9 | Fenton Songs I (1997) | 9:23 |
| 10-13 | Fenton Songs II (2002) | 15:37 |
| 14 | Ave Christe of Josquin (1988) | 5:01 |
| 15-20 | Josquiniana (2002) | 9:19 |

Sarah Rothenberg, Piano
(Ashberyana • Praegustatum • Fenton Songs I • Ave Christe)

Leon Williams, Baritone • James Pugh, Trombone

Mark Steinberg, Violin • David Fulmer, Violin

Misha Amory, Viola • Nina Maria Lee, Cello

Charles Wuorinen, Conductor
(Ashberyana)

Lucy Shelton, Soprano

Mark Steinberg, Violin • Nina Maria Lee, Cello

(Fenton Songs I and Fenton Songs II)

Alan Feinberg, Piano

(Fenton Songs II)

Brentano String Quartet

(Josquiniana)

Full track details & sponsorship credits are given in the booklet.

Recorded at Duncan Hall, Shepherd School of Music, Rice University, Houston, Texas, on 12 October 2005 (tracks 1–4) and at the American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, on 12, 15 & 16 January 2007 (tracks 5–20)

Producer: Judith Sherman • Engineer: Andrew Bradley (1–4), Judith Sherman (5–20) • Engineering & Editing Assistant: Jeanne Velonis • Piano: Steinway & Sons

Cover: René Magritte, *La lunette d'approche* (The Telescope), 1963 (The Menil Collection, Houston); photographed by Hickey-Robertson • American flag, folk artist, 1880s

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