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Playing Time
74:03

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Compared by contemporaries to Ravel and Debussy, French composer Florent Schmitt is being rediscovered today. Following his death, one critic mourned that “French music has just lost a smile and a master”. The whimsical and sparkling *À tour d’anches* for oboe, clarinet, bassoon and piano and the dramatically beautiful *Piano Quintet* reveal a powerful and distinctive personality. By turns lyrical, humorous and fiery, these two chamber works span a period of almost forty years, from the beginning of Schmitt’s mature period to his late style.

Deutschlandradio Kultur

Florent
SCHMITT
(1870–1958)

Piano Quintet, Op. 51 * 58:26

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------|
| 1 | I. Lent et grave – Animé | 21:44 |
| 2 | II. Lent | 14:17 |
| 3 | III. Animé | 22:14 |

À tour d’anches, Op. 97 † 15:21

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|------|
| 4 | I. A courre | 1:45 |
| 5 | II. Sur un rythme prévu | 4:19 |
| 6 | III. Nocturne – sarabande | 7:16 |
| 7 | IV. Quasimodo | 1:54 |

Solisten-Ensemble Berlin

Birgitta Wollenweber, Piano

* Matthias Wollong, Violin I • Petra Schwieger, Violin II

Ulrich Knörzer, Viola • Andreas Grünkorn, Cello

† Matthias Bäcker, Oboe • Richard Obermayer, Clarinet • Frank Forst, Bassoon

Recorded at Villa Siemens, Berlin, Germany, 5–7 April (tracks 1–3), 8 April (4–7) 2008
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