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 Playing Time
62:40

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Both the works on this recording were written during wartime. Debussy's 1915 *En blanc et noir*, composed during a late creative burst, is his musical response to the horrors of World War I. Messiaen's revolutionary *Visions de l'Amen* from 1943, written to be performed by the composer and his teenage pupil, Yvonne Loriod, is a profound religious meditation whose emotional intensity is overwhelming. The rôle of the two pianos is clearly divided. Melodic and expressive elements are confined to the second piano, Messiaen's part, whereas all that is percussion, brilliance and rhythmic development is heard in the first piano, Loriod's part.

Claude DEBUSSY

(1862-1918)

En blanc et noir (1915) 15:14

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1 Avec emportement | 4:19 |
| 2 Lent. Sombre – Sourdement tumultueux –
Mouv ^t du début | 6:35 |
| 3 Scherzando – Poco meno mosso | 4:20 |

Olivier MESSIAEN

(1908-1992)

Visions de l'Amen (1943) 47:26

- | | | | |
|---|------|--|-------|
| 4 I. Amen de la Création | 5:58 | 7 IV. Amen du Désir | 10:17 |
| 5 II. Amen des étoiles,
de la planète à l'anneau | 5:37 | 8 V. Amen des anges, des saints,
du chant des oiseaux | 7:32 |
| 6 III. Amen de l'agonie
de Jésus | 7:18 | 9 VI. Amen du Jugement | 2:47 |
| | | 10 VII. Amen de la
Consommation | 7:56 |

Ralph van Raat, Piano I • Håkon Austbø, Piano II

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