

One of the pioneers of the 20th-century resurrection of interest in the harpsichord was the great virtuoso Wanda Landowska who assisted in the development of a harpsichord built by Pleyel of Paris. Performing on a 1930s Pleyel harpsichord, Christopher Lewis has chosen a programme of 20th-century works by French or French-based composers. Poulenc's colourful *Suite française* is followed by Françaix's exciting and previously unrecorded *Deux Pièces*. Martinů's lyricism and intensity of expression can be heard in the *Sonata* and other pieces while Louis Durey's piquant *Dix Inventions* is both a homage to Bach's *Two-Part Inventions* and a work whose compositional technique is firmly rooted in the modern era.



8.573364

DDD

Playing Time
60:05

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20th Century Harpsichord Music

Francis POULENC (1899–1963)

1–7 Suite française (1935) 14:47

Jean FRANÇAIX (1912–1997)

8–9 Deux Pièces pour clavecin (1977)* 3:54

Bohuslav MARTINU (1890–1959)

10–11 Deux Impromptus (1959) 5:16

12–14 Sonate pour clavecin (1958) 9:14

Louis DUREY (1888–1979)

15–24 Dix Inventions (1924–1927)* 19:20

Bohuslav MARTINU

25–26 Deux Pièces pour clavecin (1935) 7:32

Full track details will be found in the booklet

* WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDING

Christopher D. Lewis, Harpsichord

Recorded at the residence of Tom Perkins, Belvedere, California, USA, 7–11 March 2014

Producers: Norbert Kraft & Bonnie Silver • Session Producer, Engineer & Editor: Norbert Kraft

Publishers: Editions Durand (tracks 1–7); Schott Music GmbH & Co. KG (8–9); Editions Max Eschig (12–14);

Editions Musicales Transatlantiques (15–24); Universal Edition (25–26) • Booklet notes: Graham Wade

Harpsichord: 'Eaton Pleyel', c. 1930 • Technician/tuner: Kevin Fryer • Temperament: Bach/Lehman, A=440

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Cover photograph by Drew Kelly of the instrument used in this recording