

To celebrate the 50th birthday of the Finnish cellist Anssi Karttunen in 2010 his wife, Muriel von Braun, and colleague and compatriot Kaija Saariaho wrote to a number of composers with whose music Karttunen had been working, asking each to write a variation on the *Chiacona per basso solo* by the Italian composer Giuseppe Colombi (1635–94) – perhaps the earliest work in the history of the cello. The composers were not told who else was involved in the project, and Karttunen agreed to perform the music before he had seen it – hence the title, *Mystery Variations*. These 30 variations thus link the very beginning of the cello repertoire with music by some of the most distinguished composers of the present day and, with their distant echo of Beethoven's 32 'Diabelli' Variations, provide a showcase for the extraordinary resourcefulness of contemporary cello technique.



TOCC 0171

MYSTERY VARIATIONS ON GIUSEPPE COLOMBI'S CHIACONA

1	Giuseppe Colombi: <i>Chiacona</i>	2:05	18	Tan Dun: <i>Chiacona – after Colombi</i>	1:34
2	Jouni Kaipainen: <i>Anything Goes</i>	2:28	19	Marc Neikrug: <i>Tiny Colombi</i>	1:04
3	Martin Matalon: <i>Polvo</i>	1:05	20	Joji Yuasa: <i>Locus on Colombi's Chiacona</i>	1:24
4	Roger Reynolds: <i>Colombi Daydream</i>	5:54	21	Ryan Wigglesworth: <i>Arietta (after Colombi)</i>	1:21
5	Denis Cohen: <i>Chaconne</i>	3:30	22	Colin Matthews: <i>Drammatico</i>	1:21
6	Jukka Tiensuu: <i>bLeuelein</i>	3:36	23	Kaija Saariaho: <i>Dreaming Chaconne</i>	3:22
7	Steven Stucky: <i>Partite sopra un basso</i>	1:26	24	Ivan Fedele: <i>Preludio e Ciaconna</i>	2:18
8	Esa-Pekka Salonen: <i>Sarabande per un Coyote</i>	2:32	25	Vinko Globokar: <i>Idée Fixe</i>	5:10
9	Edmund Campion: <i>Something to Go On</i>	1:36	26	Gualtiero Dazzi: <i>variation sombre e libre d'après Chiacona</i>	3:36
10	Rolf Wallin: <i>Ciacconetta</i>	1:23	27	Tapio Tuomela: <i>Idulla</i>	1:23
11	Pablo Ortiz: <i>paloma</i>	2:18	28	Betsy Jolas: <i>A Fancy for Anssi</i>	2:05
12	Paavo Heininen: <i>Triple Antienne</i>	5:02	29	Miroslav Srnka: <i>A Variation</i>	1:51
13	Anders Hillborg: <i>Still and Flow</i>	2:16	30	Luca Francesconi: <i>Anssimmetry</i>	2:30
14	Fred Lerdahl: <i>There and back again</i>	3:38	31	Magnus Lindberg: <i>Duella</i>	2:40
15	Veli-Matti Puumala: <i>...se sillan...</i>	4:01			
16	Pascal Dusapin: <i>50 notes en 3 Variations</i>	1:47			
17	Kimmo Hakola: <i>Colombi Variation</i>	3:27			
					TT 79:57

Anssi Karttunen, cello

FIRST RECORDING



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