

When Germany invaded Austria in 1938, Robert Fürstenthal, born in 1920, took the path of many Viennese Jews and fled to the United States, where he made his living as an accountant; the fact that he had written music in his youth was soon forgotten. Reconnection, after 35 years, with the woman who had been his first love rekindled both that flame and his urge to compose, and from then on songs and chamber music flowed from his pen, preserving the spirit of *fin-de-siècle* Vienna under the Californian sun – 'When I compose, I am back in Vienna', he explained. He died in November 2016, aged 96, knowing that his lyrical, eloquent music was at last attracting the attention of both musicians and microphones.



TOCC 0519

ROBERT FÜRSTENTHAL Chamber Music, Volume One

Sonata for Two Oboes and Piano in D minor,

Op. 56

- 1 I Allegro moderato
- 2 II Lento
- 3 III Scherzando
- 4 IV Intermezzo: *Cantabile*
- 5 V Rondo: Allegretto

14:24

4:48
2:49
1:30
1:58
3:19

Cello Sonata in F minor, Op. 58

- 6 I Allegro moderato
- 7 II Andante
- 8 III Scherzando
- 9 IV Grave

12:01

3:38
2:48
1:50
3:45

Viola Sonata in D minor, Op. 57

10

- I Lento – Allegretto
- II Scherzando
- III Lento
- IV Vivace

Violin Sonata in B minor, Op. 43

14

- I Allegro con fuoco
- II Lento
- III Scherzando
- IV Andante con variazioni

Piano Trio, Op. 65

18

- I Moderato, ma con spirito
- II Cantabile
- III Andante – Allegro ma non troppo

The Rossetti Ensemble

Malcolm Messiter, oboe 1–5
Christopher O'Neal, oboe 1–5
Sarah Trickey, violin 14–20

Sarah-Jane Bradley, viola 10–13
Timothy Lowe, cello 6–9
John Lenehan, piano

FIRST RECORDINGS

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