



TOCN 0026

These five works – four sonatas and a sonatina – chronicle a century of American writing for the viola and are linked by a concern for directness of musical language. Each has a distinguishing characteristic, too, the Ulysses Kay pieces being written by a pioneering African-American, Libby Larsen's by a successful female freelance composer, Eric Ewazen's animated by a particularly American lyricism and energy, and that by David Tcimpidis commemorating the '9/11' terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, which Tcimpidis heard unfolding.

A CENTURY OF AMERICAN VIOLA SONATAS

ULYSSES KAY

1917–55

1 *Sonatine for Viola and Piano* (1939)*

4:54

Viola Sonata (1942)*

10:29

2 I *Largo*

2:33

3 II *Allegro*

2:19

4 III *Adagio*

1:18

5 IV *Allegretto*

4:19

DAVID TCIMPIDIS

1938–2023

6 *Viola Sonata* (2004)*

8:31

LIBBY LARSEN

b. 1950

Viola Sonata (2004)

18:32

7 I *Flow*

6:24

8 II *Drift*

7:16

9 III *Breathless*

4:52

ERIC EWAZEN

b. 1954

Viola Sonata (1991)

18:59

10 I *Lento – Allegro appassionato*

7:06

11 II *Andante*

5:29

12 III *Allegro energico*

6:24

TT 61:25

Basil Vendryes, viola

William David, piano

*FIRST RECORDINGS

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