



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 Sonatina 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

*FIRST RECORDINGS

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