Stravinsky conceived the idea of a small-scale theatrical work towards the end of the First World War. Collaborating with Swiss writer Charles-Ferdinand Ramuz and painter and designer René-Victor Auberjonois, he wrote Histoire du Soldat (The Soldier’s Tale), derived from a Russian folk tale by Alexander Afanasyev. It is scored for narrator, two speakers and an instrumental septet – ‘to be read, played and danced’ as there is also a non-speaking dancing rôle. The Faustian morality tale is rendered as a music drama of extraordinary rhythmic charge and gripping power.

IGOR STRAVINSKY
(1882-1971)

The Soldier’s Tale (1918)
(Complete)

Text by Charles-Ferdinand Ramuz (1878-1947)
English version by Michael Flanders and Kitty Black, revised by Pamela Berlin

Fred Child ........................................... Narrator
Jared McGuire ....................................... The Soldier
Jeff Biehl ............................................ The Devil

Tianwa Yang, Violin
Virginia Arts Festival Chamber Players
Ricardo Morales, Clarinet • Laura Leisring, Bassoon
David Vonderheide, Trumpet • R. Scott McElroy, Trombone
Robert W. Cross, Percussion • Christopher White, Double bass

Pamela Berlin, Director
JoAnn Falletta, Conductor

A detailed track list can be found on page 2 of the booklet.

Recorded at Robin Hixon Theater, Norfolk, Virginia, USA, on 9th May, 2015
Producer and engineer: Tim Handley • Booklet notes: Keith Anderson
Cover: Burning Violin by Fernando Cortes (Fotolia.com)