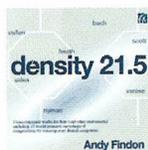


CDS

DENSITY 21.5

Music by Andy Scott, Varese, Nyman, Geoff Eales, JS Bach, David Heath, David Cullen
Andy Findon (flute)
 Nimbus Alliance

New repertoire worth exploring



Long-standing member of the Michael Nyman Band and

one of the UK's leading session musicians, Andy Findon is known for his versatility and flair. This disc of unaccompanied works demonstrates Findon's skills on flute, alto flute, piccolo and baritone saxophone, with repertoire ranging from JS Bach to world premiere recordings.

The opening track, Andy Scott's *KBM* is an appealing jazz-style work which creates a laid back atmosphere, despite the technical demands to the player. Varèse's *Density 21.5* is the title track of the disc, and is heard here performed on a platinum flute, as the work was originally intended. The difference in tone between this and the previous work is striking, with the platinum flute possessing a brightness and power that is particularly impressive in the extreme high register. Findon's playing here is utterly dazzling, with a sense of total commitment to the music which makes this an emotionally intense performance.

No solo flute CD is complete without Bach's A minor solo sonata, and Findon's rendition of the opening Allemande is refreshingly simple, avoiding too much rubato and giving the music just enough space to breathe. The Courante is light and sprightly, with well-articulated semiquavers and some enjoyable ornamentation. The Sarabande is haunting and the Bourée Anglaise is well measured and controlled, with more charming ornamentation. Findon's personality comes out strongly in this performance and while the interpretation may not be to everyone's taste, it is refreshing to hear a version of this piece which has such a clear sense of a performer's musical persona.

Coltrane is one of Dave Heath's best known flute works. This is the first time the piece has been recorded on alto flute, at the suggestion of the composer, and the result is extremely convincing. Findon has a natural sense of the required style, and the sound of the alto flute brings out the Eastern influences. This is without doubt one of the best renditions of this piece that I have heard.

David Cullen's *Sonata* is in three movements, and builds up harmony through the use of arpeggiated figures and repeated intervallic fragments. The first movement has the feel of a considered improvisation, with lyrical lines and a sense of organic development. The second movement features rapid articulation in alternation

with more flowing melodies, while the final movement is contemplative, with some enjoyable twists of phrase and played with expression by Findon. Two other Nyman tracks complete the disc, taken from *Yammamoto Perpetuo* and convincingly performed on baritone sax and piccolo.

Overall this is an impressive disc which has much to offer, including a good selection of new repertoire. Worth exploring.

CARLA REES

THE BAD TEMPERED FLUTE

Music by Andy Scott
 Paul Edmund-Davies (flute, alto flute), Clare Southworth (flute), Andy Findon (flute), Craig Ogden (guitar) and others.
 Nimbus Alliance

Engaging new music from distinguished performers



The Bad Tempered Flute is the latest CD from British saxophonist and composer, Andy Scott. The collection includes works spanning more than a decade, with new compositions alongside arrangements of pieces originally written for clarinet, saxophone and brass ensembles. Scott's musical heritage spans jazz and classical idioms, both

of which are audible in his music. Refreshingly, however, his vernacular has none of the pretence of self-conscious and clichéd attempts at jazz - classical fusion that now proliferate. The three-movement *Nemesis* is a typical offering. Previously scored for soprano saxophone and vibraphone in 1998, flute and vibraphone in 2003 and soprano saxophone and guitar in 2006 before its most recent manifestation for flute and guitar, *Nemesis* contains a mix of lyrical flute writing and jazz-inspired counterpoint. In the final movement, a Steve Reichian riff leads into alternating sections of flute with primarily chord-based guitar accompaniment and solo flute cadenzas. The result is a work that pushes few musical boundaries, but whose organic flow will capture most listeners.

The CD features three internationally renowned flautists: Paul Edmund-Davies, Clare Southworth and Andy Findon, who each ensure the most engaging presentations of Scott's music. The virtuosic performances are technically flawless. More importantly, musicality is at no point sacrificed for technical command.

Some pieces from *The Bad Tempered Flute* will in all likelihood find their way into the contemporary flute repertoire, which favours the eclecticism and youth that Scott's music provides. Those wishing to investigate further may take advantage of the discounted CD price of £8 for FLUTE readers. Please contact alison@saxofonix.co.uk for more information.

MARCUS ROBERTS