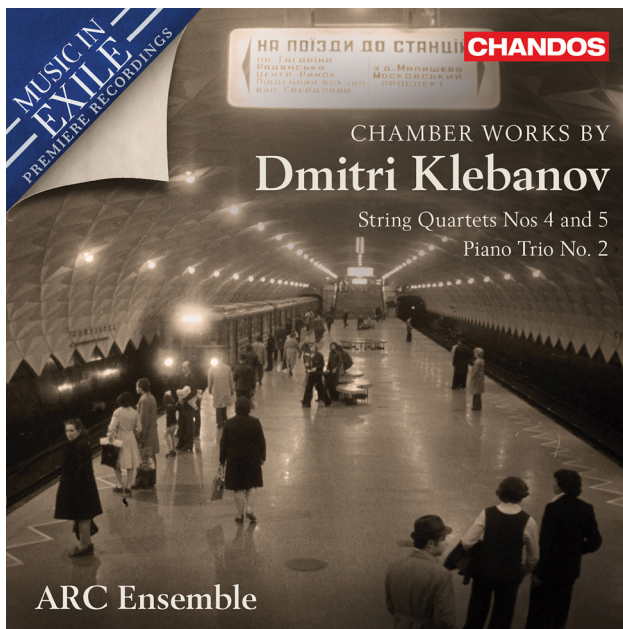


Rave Reviews for Recording by ARC Ensemble

Chamber Works by Dmitri Klebanov Garner International Acclaim



This collection of extraordinary works by Dmitri Klebanov (1907-1986) brings long-overdue recognition to the Jewish-Ukrainian composer undeservedly relegated to obscurity during Soviet-era cultural suppression and anti-Semitism. Exquisitely performed by The ARC Ensemble (Artists of The Royal Conservatory), the recording was released on September 24, 2021, and is the fifth in the group's critically acclaimed "Music in Exile" series for Chandos. Klebanov is among the scores of musicians whose works are largely forgotten and rarely performed, however, he managed to produce compositions that reveal a boundless imagination, a spirited vivacity and a melodic confidence – all of which justify his inclusion in the classical canon. The ARC Ensemble world premiere recording represents the first commercial release of these exhilarating Klebanov pieces.

In an already illuminating series covering music not so much forgotten as never noticed and/or willingly repressed, this may just be the best album yet [...] the Canadian ensemble whose marriage of technique with considered expression is exceptional [...] Excellent sound, evangelical performances and music that's a thrill to discover (and, evidently, play). Repertoire-hungry ensembles shouldn't hesitate.

- The Strad, Andrew Mellor

Performances and recording are to the customary high standards of this series, while Simon Wynberg's notes provide valuable perspective on a composer whose music, judging from that heard here, is worth further exploration

- Gramophone, Richard Whitehouse

All in all, this is another truly rewarding release in the "Music in Exile" series of recordings by Canada's ARC Ensemble [...] All three works featured on this beautifully engineered CD are premier recordings [...] As my Belgian friend said to me after we listened to this album and poured through the liner notes, "Mon ami, this ARC Ensemble, they not only play the music most beautiful, but they also do the work most noble, n'cest-pas?"

- Classical Candor, Karl W. Nehring

Isn't it wonderful when what appears to be a new and neglected voice pops up with such passionate and committed performances and such a fine and immediate recording!

- Music Web International, Gary Higginson

The performances captured here make a wholly positive impression. The ARC Ensemble plays each piece with the kind of passionate conviction that its immediacy of expression demands. While the two string quartets show the evolution of Klebanov's style most graphically, the Second Piano Trio is the major work here: thirty minutes of magnificently sustained musical discourse illuminated by captivating instrumental textures in this beautifully balanced interpretation. Chandos provides first class engineering too. In sum, this is an excellent release in all respects, and if good, interesting chamber music is your thing, don't hesitate for a moment.

- Classics Today, David Hurwitz

The Toronto-based ARC Ensemble appears to be going from strength to strength in their quest to bring to our attention a whole roster of composers whose careers were unjustly blighted by political suppression. This latest beautifully recorded release focuses on the work of Ukrainian composer Dmitry Klebanov

- Classical Music BBC Music Magazine, Erik Levi



From left to right: Erika Raum (violin), Marie Bérard (violin), Kevin Ahfat (piano), Steven Dann (viola), Thomas Wiebe (cello). Not pictured: Simon Wynberg, Artistic Director

The Royal Conservatory
The finest instrument is the mind.

The Royal Conservatory's ARC Ensemble is among Canada's most distinguished cultural ambassadors. Performing a wide range of music, its focus remains the research and recovery of music suppressed and marginalized under the 20th century's repressive regimes. A growing number of hitherto unknown masterworks are rejoining the repertoire as a result of the Ensemble's work.