



MEX 77107

Magpie: Solo & Chamber Works by Kevin Raftery

Magpie, an extraordinary collection of compositions that navigates the spectrum of human experience, from sorrow to mirth, from funerals to births. Drawing inspiration from the unpredictable nature of life, this album resonates with the complexities and contradictions of existence.

A Dark Inspiration:

Composed during challenging times, these works reflect a journey through darkness towards light. The pieces vary from meditative reflections to playful and joyful expressions, encapsulating the emotional highs and lows of life. The album's title, Magpie, is symbolic of these contrasts—just like the bird itself, a creature both admired and reviled, intelligent and opportunistic.

Key Highlights:

Meditation in Brown (2020): Inspired by the subtle beauty in Leonardo da Vinci's use of brown pigments, this piece for marimba blends serene, meditative sections with restless, exploratory movements. The composition's ABCBA form allows for a mesmerizing exploration of sound and rhythm, reminiscent of da Vinci's artistry.

Harpichord Quintet (2020): Written during the pandemic, this piece emphasizes the constancy of the harpsichord juxtaposed with the evolving patterns of the string instruments. It reflects the cyclical nature of time and change, with a structure that mirrors the periodic and ever-changing aspects of life.

Two Offerings (2021): Neither Here nor There captures the uncertainty of indecision through ambivalent harmonies and rhythms, while *Beyond* mourns the loss of loved ones with a poignant interplay between two harps, one steadfast and the other rebellious.

Naked Before God (2022): A deeply personal piece composed during a time of despair, this work is built entirely on palindromes, symbolizing the quest for perfection and the acceptance of human flaws.

Two for Mirth (2022): In memory of composer Alastair Putt, this circular canon celebrates life with humour and cleverness, echoing the spirit of the late composer through intricate musical dialogue.

About the Composer:

Kevin Raftery's music reflects his diverse heritage and life experiences. With a family history steeped in resilience and creativity, Kevin brings a distinctive voice to contemporary composition. His journey, from learning music by ear to becoming an accomplished composer, is as unconventional as it is inspiring. Magpie stands as a testament to his artistic freedom and dedication to the craft, offering listeners a deeply emotional and intellectually stimulating experience.



RELEASE DATE Nov 15th, 2024

Marketing Points

- World premiere recordings
- British/American contemporary composer
- Third album of works by Kevin Raftery
- Available on CD and in HD Digital
- Album duration 69:11



Marketing support: ads in Fanfare, Gramophone, BBC Music, MusicWeb and Musical Opinion; extensive promo/ review copy mailing; Regular posts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and artist social media accounts. YouTube sample track. Sharing of DSP links.



Order #: MEX 77107
Barcode: (0)809730710728
Artists: Richard Benjafield, mallet percussion
 Berkeley Ensemble
 Anneke Hodnett, harp
 Elizabeth Green, harp
 Neil Hyde, cello
Price Point: Standard full price: US SRP \$18.99
 UK dealer price: £7.95
Label: Divine Art
Genre: Classical/Chamber
Format: CD; digital download & streaming

WORKS LISTING

Meditation in Brown	Atlantis Dances - Pastoral
Harpichord Quintet	Atlantis Dances - Sabre-rattling
Two Offering - Neither Here nor There	Atlantis Dances - Exorcism
Two Offerings - Beyond	Atlantis Dances - Festive
Naked before God	Meditation in Silver
Fourth Companion	
Meditation in Gold	
Two for Mirth	

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Kevin Raftery: Second Child
Berkeley Ensemble; Clare Hammond; Marmen Quartet; EXAUDI

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Preview Track:
Two Offerings (2021):
Neither Here nor There
https://youtu.be/vNXmX_jSvjM



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