

CDS

DEEP BLUE

Ian Clarke (flute) with Tim Carey (piano)
IC Music IC02



After a very long gap since the release of his stunning and ground-breaking first CD, *Within...*, Ian Clarke finally gives the world *Deep Blue*. What a revelation this is! The cover grabs the eye immediately with its intense colour: a cool, profound blue. From the first piece to the last, Ian reveals so much soulfulness in his music and in the grace of his presentation, letting us all in to his world of colour, verse, and journey. This disc is at once intimate and playful, loving and threatening, demonstrating exceptional technique that you at once ignore for the interest of textures, colours, and emotion.

Like the waves of the ocean, the first track, *Deep Blue*, transports the listener to a place of meditation. The effect is instantly soothing and hypnotic. Within this piece there is a sense of soul that reaches out to the listener intimately. Ian evokes a feeling of calm throughout the whole album, even though you

know, as a flute player, that he is playing quarter-tones, multiphonics and scale patterns with great dexterity. There is so much intricacy in each composition, and yet Ian still manages to find the lyrical element in all of it.

The spiritual nature of *Curves* takes the listener gradually to realms beyond earthly domains. The delicate and complicated fingerings sound effortless between the three flute parts. To hear this in a live performance would be magical, taking in the textures in a spacial environment. The ears pulse in the reaction to the chords; maybe this is the magic that stirs the listener momentarily into another world.

Touching the Ether is even more of a personal statement of Ian's. The time and space taken between gestures make this a very intimate piece, giving the listener moments of reflection as Ian takes new breaths and turns corners, as one would do in life.

And then there is *Hatching Aliens*, an amazing journey through bizarre twists and soundscapes that create and question the possibility of aliens – in us, out there, or just in our imaginations? I wouldn't listen to this in the dark, alone. These three movements are fun!

Beverly for solo flute is a song which embraces the colour, soulfulness, and words of love. In this piece,

Ian expresses vocal timbre through his wonderful alterations of the open and closed keys on the same note, leading listeners into the sense of longing.

This disc is one of the most innovative released in recent years, and not just in a flute context. It is an incredible journey, and takes the listener to distant realms. I highly recommend it for any collection.

LISA NELSEN

**LOST GENERATION:
WORKS BY SCHULHOFF,
ULLMANN AND TAUSKY**
Ulrike Anton (flute), Russel Ryan (piano)

English Chamber Orchestra
Exil.arte



This CD aims to rediscover composers who, during the time of the Third Reich were branded as 'degenerate', and forced to suppress their creative endeavors. In spite of this painful background, the music brims with flair and originality, making intriguing listening.

The Czech composer, Erwin Schulhoff, whose *Double Concerto for Flute and Piano* appears on this disc, was born in 1894.

Encouraged in his early musical study by Antonin Dvořák, he later studied in Cologne with Claude Debussy and became one of the first composers to be influenced by the rhythms of jazz music. It is a great tragedy that he died in a concentration camp in 1942.

Any qualms one may have about the practicality of a double concerto for flute and piano are soon dispelled upon listening; the combination works marvelously here. The writing ensures that the piano never overpowers the flute in projecting musical ideas, helped by Ulrike Anton and Russel Ryan's sensitive partnership. Anton's strikingly rich, singing tone is evident in the slow movement, and this also comes across in the *Sonata*, a beguiling work which brings to mind Debussy and Hindemith. Let it inspire you to buy the sheet music and help preserve the art of these very worthy composers.

DANIEL SHAO

CHRISTOPHER GUNNING

Craig Ogden (guitar), Michael Whight (clarinet), Catherine Handley (flute), Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Discovery DMV104

This new release features three concertos by Christopher Gunning, who is perhaps best known for his TV music and film scores. The featured instruments are guitar (Craig Ogden),