

NEW RELEASE NMC D133

Donnacha Dennehy Elastic Harmonic

(b1970)



www.nmcrec.co.uk



Artists: Joanna MacGregor *piano*
Tatiana Koleva *percussion*
Crash Ensemble
ensemble Intégrales
Darragh Morgan *violin*
RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra
Gavin Maloney *conductor*

Cat No.: NMC D133

RRP: Full price

Total Duration: 66'54

Barcode: 5023363013321

Release Date: 11 June 2007

- 1 **Glamour Sleeper** (ensemble Intégrales) *released in collaboration with Saarländischer Rundfunk*
- 2 **Paddy** (Tatiana Koleva, percussion)
- 3 **Junk Box Fraud** (Crash Ensemble)
- 4 **Elastic Harmonic** (Darragh Morgan, violin; RTÉ NSO / Gavin Maloney, conductor) *supported by RTÉ*
- 5 **pAt** (Joanna MacGregor, piano)
- 6 **Streetwalker** (Crash Ensemble)

A resident of Dublin, Donnacha Dennehy is something of an internationalist, having studied music composition in Ireland and the USA before pursuing further studies in electronic music at the Hague and at IRCAM in Paris. His work has been widely performed in the USA, throughout Europe and Scandinavia by ensembles including Bang On A Can All-Stars, London Sinfonietta and Orkest de Volharding.

Dennehy founded the Crash Ensemble in 1997 to concentrate on the newest music exploiting multimedia and it was for their first concert that he wrote the uproarious and infectiously upbeat *Junk Box Fraud*. The piece is described by the composer as "a celebration of junk and an inquiry into our relationship with technology". The vocalists—one of whom has her hair dyed blue and the other red—make percussive rhythms and noises accompanied by piano and tape playing a steady stream of sixteenth-notes, cross-accents and off-beat stabbed chords, creating an angular feel. The text was specially written by Donnacha's father, Denis.

To use the composer's own words, "There is a whiff of high-class vandalism about my work"; combining traditional sonorities and instrumentation with driving rhythms, inventive wordplay, electroacoustics and experimental styles of composition, Dennehy's work is vibrant, original, sometimes challenging and refreshingly different.

"Streetwalker includes this composer's characteristic mixture of urban sounds and tight, multi-layered rhythms. But there is nothing routine about it. Subtle and unusual pitch-bending techniques intersect with, and help to trigger some of the most kaleidoscopic sounds of this concert. The sense of purpose gives special potency to surprising twists and turns in a work which stood up with the best of those in the concert." Irish Times

"One of the most engaging musical voices of our new century" Bob Gilmore

"Magnificently energetic and wildly cacophonous ... the Irish new-music band [Crash Ensemble] that plays with the energy and spirit of a rock group" New York Times 2007

NEW RELEASE NMC D132

Edwin Roxburgh Reflets dans la glace

(b1937)



www.nmcrec.co.uk



Pianists: Waka Hasegawa & Joseph Tong
Thalia Myers
Hiroaki Takenouchi
Peter O'Hagan
Sally Mays
Karl Lutchmayer
George King

Cat No.: NMC D132

RRP: Full price

Total Duration: 75'20

Barcode: 5023363013222

Release Date: 11 June 2007

- 1-3 Reflets dans la Glace for piano duo** *Tong Duo*
- 4-7 Les Miroirs de Miró (for young pianists)** *Thalia Myers*
- 8-13 Six Etudes** *Hiroaki Takenouchi* **14-16 Piano Sonata** *Peter O'Hagan*
- 17-18 Two Pieces (for young pianists)** *Sally Mays*
- 19-20 Prelude and Toccata** *Karl Lutchmayer* **21 Labyrinth** *George King*
- 22-23 Introduction and Arabesques** *James Young*

This release marks the 70th year of a composer who has recently received long-overdue recognition through the release on NMC of his evocative orchestral work *Saturn* and the highly accomplished Clarinet Concerto (both on NMC D119).

The current release brings together his complete works for piano solo and duo and is performed by a cast of eight brilliant pianists, including those who commissioned or premiered the works: together they bring their separate talents to this diverse body of work, a fitting tribute to his long career as a composer and teacher.

Edwin Roxburgh's *Saturn* reviewed in *The Wire*, 2006:

"Saturn is an epic orchestral and electronic space-scape, effortlessly blending Roxburgh's understanding of Boulez and Stockhausen with a Birtwistle-like sense of ritual. An orbiting soprano saxophone beams down ideas to an orchestral underlay dominated by clattering percussion and mind-expanding electronics; this is an extraordinarily ballsy mission undertaken by HCYO."

Other recordings by Edwin Roxburgh on NMC ...

NMC D057 Moonscape

NMC D119 Saturn; Clarinet Concerto