

## Sounds of the next generation

Another item of interest from my mailbox is a self produced CD of music from the 16th through the 20th centuries by a German recorder quartet called Sadastan (also the name of the CD). It's a group consisting of two brothers, Daniel and Stefan Koschitzky, and two sisters, Sabrina and Aniela Frey. (...)

The level of their playing is superb by any standards and is even more remarkable considering that the group members' ages range from 16 to 20. (...) The quality of the recording is also excellent and the accompanying booklet is beautifully done, with attractive photographs and liner notes in both German and English.

The modern works on the CD include a fine performance of the classic *Idyll 1* by Japanese composer Ryohei Hirose. *Yami* („Darkness“), written by another Japanese composer, Masako Suma, is to my ears the highlight of the recording. Ms. Suma uses a low choir of recorders, exploiting their potential for soft, atmospheric sounds combined with vocal effects from the performers. The result is a night music somewhere between the paranoid spookiness of *Pierrot Lunaire* and the otherworldliness of a traditional Japanese Noh play, without being derivative of either. Sadastan's performance is sublime.

Agnes Dorwarth's *Das Grosse Lalula* („The Big Lalula), written especially for the Sadastan quartet, is a dramatic multimedia piece involving playing, singing, speaking, and movement. It is performed well but loses much of its impact in this purely aural presentation. Winding up the CD is a rendition of Long Island, New York, recorder player Stan Davis' arrangement of Paul Demond's *Take Five*. It is well executed technically but marred by an overuse of notes inégales on the eighth notes, probably done in an attempt to make it swing, and a chuffy sputato tongue on the bass recorder that puts one in mind of an anachronistic „slapbass“ technique (...) that was already dated twenty years before the original recording of *Take Five* by the Dave Brubeck Quartet.

Criticisms aside, this is a fine CD and it is representative of the high level of performance that can be heard from the best of the budding young recorder players of today.

PETE ROSE

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