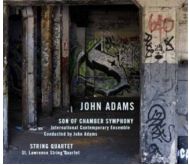


John Adams – Son Of Chamber Symphony – String Quartet (2011)

Written by bluesever

Friday, 26 August 2011 08:48 - Last Updated Sunday, 14 December 2014 13:22

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01 – *Son Of Chamber Symphony I* – International Contemporary Ensemble & John Adams

02 – *Son Of Chamber Symphony II* – International Contemporary Ensemble & John Adams

[play](#)

03 – *Son Of Chamber Symphony III* – International Contemporary Ensemble & John Adams

04 – *String Quartet I* – St. Lawrence String Quartet & John Adams 05 – *String Quartet II* – St. Lawrence String Quartet & John Adams

Musicians: Son of Chamber Symphony: International Contemporary Ensemble John Adams, conductor Claire Chase, executive director Eric Lamb, flute, piccolo Nicholas Masterson, oboe Joshua Rubin, clarinet Campbell MacDonald, bass clarinet Rebekah Heller, bassoon David Byrd, horn Gareth Flowers, trumpet David Nelson, trombone Cory Smythe, piano, celesta Nathan Davis, Ian Antonio, percussion David Bowlin, Jennifer Curtis, violin Maiya Papach, viola Kivie Cahn-Lipman, cello Scott Dixon, bass String Quartet: St. Lawrence String Quartet Geoff Nuttall, violin Scott St. John, violin Lesley Robertson, viola Christopher Costanza, cello

Nonesuch released John Adams's *Son of Chamber Symphony / String Quartet* on May 31, 2011. *Son of Chamber Symphony* (2007) is performed by the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), led by the composer, and Adams's *String Quartet* (2008) is performed by the St. Lawrence String Quartet, the ensemble for which the piece was written. This is the first recording of both works.

“As you might imagine, *Son of Chamber Symphony* is closely related to *Chamber Symphony*,” Adams recently explained in an interview for the London Sinfonietta. “The two are very similar in instrumentation: 15 players—a large chamber group, or a very small orchestra—which means everybody gets to be a soloist in one way or another. It gave me an opportunity to do the kind of challenging virtuoso writing that I would never attempt with a large orchestra. The new chamber symphony also has the same buoyant quality [as the original].” The piece was co-commissioned by the San Francisco Ballet for a new work by choreographer Mark Morris, entitled *Joyride*,

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which premiered in 2008.

String Quartet is Adams' second full-sized work for that combination of instruments. His first, 1994's *John's Book of Alleged Dances* (Nonesuch, 1998), is a set of 11 short pieces written for Kronos Quartet. Hearing the St. Lawrence String Quartet perform that work inspired Adams to compose *String Quartet* for them, which led to its world premiere at The Juilliard School in 2009. Since then, the group has performed the work more than 50 times throughout North America, Europe, and New Zealand, including a critically acclaimed performance at Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall in March 2011. The Philadelphia Inquirer said of one of those concerts, "The piece is a knockout. Thanks to the St. Lawrence telepathic sense of ensemble, so was the performance."

With a flexible roster of 33 leading instrumentalists performing in forces ranging from solos to large ensembles, the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE) functions as performer, presenter, and educator, advancing the music of our time and pursuing groundbreaking strategies for audience engagement. Since its founding in 2001, ICE has premiered more than 500 compositions, the bulk of them by emerging composers, in venues ranging from New York's Lincoln Center and Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art to galleries, bars, clubs, and schools around the world.

Established in 1989, the St. Lawrence String Quartet (SLSQ) has developed a reputation as a world-class chamber ensemble. The quartet performs more than 120 concerts annually worldwide and calls Stanford University, where the group is ensemble-in-residence, home. The SLSQ is committed to the great, established quartet literature and also champions new works by composers like John Adams, Osvaldo Golijov, Eziquiel Vinao, and Jonathan Berger. The quartet comprises founding members Lesley Robertson (viola) and Geoff Nuttall (violin); cellist Christopher Costanza, who joined the group in 2003; and violinist Scott St. John, who joined in 2006.

Son of Chamber Symphony was commissioned by Stanford Lively Arts in honor of the Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation during Lung Cancer Awareness Month, November 2007, with generous support from Van and Eddi Van Auken, and by The Carnegie Hall Corporation, and made possible in part by The Swanson Foundation in honor of San Francisco Ballet's 75th Anniversary. It was choreographed as *Joyride* for the San Francisco Ballet by Mark Morris. Its world premiere was November 30, 2007, by Alarm Will Sound (Alan Pierson, conductor), at Dinkelspiel Auditorium, Stanford University. *Son of Chamber Symphony* is dedicated to Ara Guzelimian.

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String Quartet was commissioned by The Juilliard School (with generous support of the trust of Francis Goelet), Stanford Lively Arts, Stanford University, and The Banff Centre. Its world premiere was January 29, 2009, by the St. Lawrence String Quartet, at the Juilliard School. String Quartet is dedicated to Joseph Polisi.

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