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News

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Lincoln Trio Turns to Turina on New Cedille Records Album

*Ensemble Applies Its 'Interpretative Flair'
to Spanish Composer's Works
for Multiple Strings and Piano*

The Chicago-based Lincoln Trio, lauded by *The Strad* for its ‘interpretative flair’ and “supreme clarity of expression,” performs nearly all of early 20th-century Spanish composer Joaquín Turina’s chamber music for multiple strings and piano on its second and newest Cedille Records album.

On *Turina: Chamber Music for Strings and Piano*, the Lincoln Trio presents a largely unfamiliar body of work consisting of four trios, a quartet, quintet, and sextet, including the second-ever recording of Turina’s early Piano Trio in F Major. The program, a two-CD set priced as a single CD, was released as a digital download October 7 and on CD October 14 (Cedille Records 90000 150).

In addition to the Trio in F Major, works include Turina’s Piano Trio No. 1 in D Major, Op. 35, and No. 2 in B Minor, Op. 76; *Círculo*, Op. 91; Piano Quartet in A Minor, Op. 67; Quintet in G Minor, Op. 1; and Sextet—*Escena Andaluza* (Andalusian Scene). The three trio works occupy the first disc; pieces for larger ensembles occupy the second.

Lincoln Trio members Desirée Ruhstrat (violin), David Cunliffe (cello), and Marta Aznavoorian (piano) said they created the all-Turina program in response to concertgoers’ enthusiasm for the Trio No. 1 in D Major, one of the first works the ensemble adopted into its

repertoire. Listeners delighted in discovering enchanting music by an unfamiliar composer, so the group set out to bring more of Turina's work to the public.

Turina's music blends Spanish dance and folk elements with romanticism and French impressionism. The recording traces "the stylistic development of this profoundly interesting yet relatively little-known composer," writes Andrea Lamoreaux in her notes to the double-disc set.

The Lincoln Trio's guest artists are violinists Jasmine Lin and Aurelian Fort Pederzoli and violists Ayane Kozasa and Doyle Armbrust.

French Influence, Spanish Voice

Born in Seville, Spain, Turina (1882–1949) studied in Paris at composer Vincent d'Indy's Schola Cantorum. The conservatory championed César Franck's cyclic style of composition, where some or all movements of a work share the same melodic material. Even before his Paris sojourn, Turina had absorbed this French influence while studying in Spain, as evident in his early Trio in F Major, from 1904, which predates the composer's opus-assigned works. Turina continued to favor cyclic technique throughout his life.

Turina's Piano Trios Nos. 1 and 2 are probably his best known chamber works. These were written after his return from Paris to Spain, when he had settled into his own authentic Spanish Andalusian voice.

The Op. 91 *Círculo*, Spanish for "circle," is both cyclic and programmatic. Written in 1936, its three movements trace the circular passage of a day, from dawn to noon to twilight. In the middle movement, pizzicato strings evoke guitars playing in the midday sun of a town square. Similar guitar-like sounds appear in the central movement of Turina's Piano Quartet in A Minor, Op. 67, from 1931.

Turina's Piano Quintet in G Minor, his official Opus 1, dates from 1907. It was premiered in Paris and reflected d'Indy's interest in Baroque counterpoint. His Sextet, from 1912, is notable for its Spanish nationalist ideals, melodic richness, and unusual instrumentation: solo viola, piano, and

string quartet. Viola soloist is Kozasa, who won the 2011 Primrose International Viola Competition, while also taking the award for best chamber music performance.

Lincoln Trio

The Lincoln Trio made its full-length CD debut in 2011 with *Notable Women*, a Cedille Records album of works by six established and emerging female composers. *Strings* magazine called it “magnificently performed.” *The Classical Review* characterized the playing as “polished, exhilarating, and first class throughout.” *Gramophone* said, “The performances by the Lincoln Trio are models of vibrancy and control. The notables on this recording could hardly have better champions.” The recording prompted *Fanfare* magazine to call the artists “one of the hottest young trios in the business.”

The *Chicago Tribune* said, “The music is accessible and rewarding, and there is enough stylistic variety to keep the ear engaged.”

The ensemble feels Turina’s chamber music lends itself to a similarly appealing CD program.

Named for its home state of Illinois, the “Land of Lincoln,” the Lincoln Trio is the resident ensemble at Chicago’s Merit School of Music. It has had residences at the Music Institute of Chicago; San Francisco State University; the University of Wisconsin, Madison; and the State University of New York, Fredonia. Winner of the 2008 Master Players International Competition in Venice, Italy, and recipient of the 2011 Young Performers Career Advancement Award, the Lincoln Trio has performed throughout the U.S. and in Germany, Singapore, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Columbia, and Mexico. The ensemble’s discography includes the Grammy-nominated *Annelies* on Naxos. Its website is www.lincolntrio.com.

Recording Team

The new album was produced by multiple Grammy Award-winner Judith Sherman and engineered by Cedille’s Bill Maylone, a two-time Grammy nominee, at sessions January 28–30 and February 27–28, 2014, in Bennett Gordon Hall at Ravinia in Highland Park, Ill.

Cedille Records

Marking its 25th anniversary this season, Grammy award-winning Cedille Records (pronounced say-DEE) has been dedicated to showcasing the most noteworthy classical artists in and from the Chicago area since its debut in November 1989.

The audiophile-oriented label releases every new album in multiple formats: a physical CD; a 96 kHz, 24-bit, studio-quality FLAC download; and a 320 Kbps MP3 download.

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TURINA: CHAMBER MUSIC FOR STRINGS AND PIANO **(Cedille Records 90000 150)**

Piano Trio in F Major (25:21)
Piano Trio No. 1 in D Major, Op. 35 (21:51)
Piano Trio No. 2 in B Minor, Op. 76 (15:13)
Círculo, Op. 91 (11:14)
Piano Quartet in A Minor, Op. 67 (16:57)
Quintet in G Minor, Op. 1 (29:56)
Sextet— *Escena Andaluza* (13:02)

Lincoln Trio
with
Jasmine Lin and
Aurelian Fort Pederzoli, violins
Ayane Kozasa and
Doyle Armbrust, violas