

CHAMBER

The *Cypress Quartet* say farewell with Brahms; *Spectrum Concerts Berlin* jazzy world of Schulhoff; *Daniel Röhm* plays Kreisler with subtlety; and violinist *Matthew Trusler* and pianist *Ashley Wass* to present a trove of

BBC MUSIC CHAMBER CHOICE

Wonderful Ligeti

Misha Donat admires François-Xavier Roth's outstanding ensemble



BRILLIANTLY ORIGINAL: François-Xavier Roth does justice to three Ligeti classics



LIGETI

Six Bagatelles; Chamber Concerto; Ten Pieces for Wind Quintet
Marion Ralincourt (flute), Hélène Mourot (oboe), Pierre Rougerie (cor anglais), Christian Laborie (clarinet), Michaël Rolland (bassoon); Les Siècles/
François-Xavier Roth

Musicales Actes Sud ASM 26 44:01 mins
These brilliantly original works are among Ligeti's most familiar and approachable, and the *Six Bagatelles* and *Ten Pieces* are now cornerstones of the wind quintet repertoire – even though the Bagatelles are actually highly skilful transcriptions of piano pieces from *Musica ricercata*,

written in the early 1950s. The *Ten Pieces*, composed nearly two decades later, display the *Alice in Wonderland* side of Ligeti, and carry such evocative movement-headings as *Prestissimo minaccioso e burlesco* and *Presto bizarro*. The latter has a prominent part for bassoon, and

Ligeti's Chamber Concerto ends with an insanely virtuosic Presto

its last isolated note is followed in the score by a quotation: "...but" – There was a long pause. "Is that all?" Alice timidly asked. "That's all," said Humpty Dumpty. "Good-bye."

The Chamber Concerto of 1969–70, ending with what Ligeti once described as 'an insanely virtuosic Presto', has been well served on disc.

This new recording is comparable with the best (the Schönberg Ensemble under Reinbert de Leeuw, for instance, or Peter Eötvös and the Ensemble Modern), though the slightly dry and closely balanced recording robs the music of some of its atmosphere. Perhaps its most characteristic movement is the third which shows Ligeti's fascination with mechanical objects, its out-of-phase repeated notes having the ensemble converging and moving apart. The wind quintet pieces, ideally recorded, are played with superb virtuosity.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
RECORDING ★★★★★



ON THE WEBSITE

Hear extracts from this recording and the rest of this month's choices on the BBC Music Magazine website www.classical-music.com