

BASSOON BON-BONS



 KEM-DISC

1006

Daniel Smith, *bassoon*
Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
Ettore Stratta, *conductor*

Produced by JEFFREY KAUFMAN
Recording Engineer: Brian Culverhouse
Digital Editing: Martin Compton
Art Direction: Fred Holtz
Cover Photo: Ronald Berlin/Picture This, Inc.
Artist Photo: Mike Evans
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The Artist

Daniel Smith has distinguished himself as a bassoon recitalist, concerto soloist, orchestral musician and recording artist. He has been praised by critics for his "beautiful sound", as well as "virtuosity and musicianship". He has appeared throughout the world as soloist including appearances at London's Wigmore Hall, New York's Carnegie Hall and The Diligenita Hall in The Hague. As a frequent and esteemed festival performer, he has participated in The Rome Festival, The Berkshire Music Festival at Tanglewood, and The International Festival of Music at Orvieto.

His most recent recordings range from this "cross-over" disc to a new and unprecedented series of the complete 37 Vivaldi Bassoon concertos with the English Chamber Orchestra, as well as, a recording of music for bassoon and string quartet with the Coull Quartet.

He is undoubtedly a player who has explored the capabilities of his instrument to the full, and has coupled this with the ability to communicate his enthusiasm to audiences, colleagues and critics alike.

The Music

What comes to mind when one mentions the "bassoon", that strange and mysterious instrument, the low toned member of the woodwind family? Few can say... We know of course, that the flute is elegant, the oboe is regal, the clarinet suave, the English horn haunting, but... what about the "bassoon"? Well, you'll be amazingly surprised! This instrument has it *all!*

It can play as many notes and play them as fast as the flute; it has the majestic sound and projection of the oboe, the velvety tone of the clarinet and the warmth of a cello! Really? *Really.*

Of course, it needs as any instrument does the master player to play it, the consummate artist and virtuoso to give it its full value. Daniel Smith is such a player, the real bassoon virtuoso. His numerous recordings with the English Chamber orchestra, the Ravina Ensemble, The Coull String Quartet and pianist Roger Vignoles, to name a few, have already established him as the top performer on the instrument, and in sheer quantity he is, without a doubt, the most recorded bassoonist in history, with over ten albums to his credit!

Now let's talk about this album. "Bassoon Bon-Bons" is a delightful and delicious collection of veritable gems from the world of Opera, symphonic works, solo literature and art songs, concocted by

Daniel Smith, the Royal Philharmonic and produced in fine style by Jeffrey Kaufman. Some of the "bon-bons" are: *GOLLIWOG'S CAKE WALK* with its dancing rhythms turn-of-the-century French-style; the moving *ADAGIO* by Corelli; the gently romantic *PLAISIR D'AMOUR* by Padre Martini; the fiery "*LA DONNA E' MOBILE*" from Verdi's "Rigoletto" in a spirited interpretation; Schubert's *SERENADE*, a melody known to all, and the evocative *LARGO* from Vivaldi's "Winter" season. Fritz Kreisler's lovely "*LIEBESLIED*", waltzes through 19th century Vienna as *LONDONDERRY AIR* recalls the days of Danny Boy and the sadness of farewell. It's a love and passion in Tchaikovsky's "*NONE BUT THE LONELY HEART*"; and Bach's *INVENTION* is all light and speed. Chopin's *ETUDE IN E MAJOR*, again, makes us wonder at his melodic and romantic genius, and finally, a bitter-sweet "bon-bon", the elegantly moody *VOCALISE* by Rachmaninoff.

Music speaks better than words, so let the sound of the "bassoon" and the melodies in this album be your guide on this unique tour of musical "bon-bons".

I had a wonderful time conducting them, and so I hope you will enjoy these tasty "classical" goodies!

E. Stratta