

Capstone releases *Piping the Earth*, a disk of Shatin's Orchestral Music

Capstone Records has just released *Piping the Earth*, the first CD devoted to the dramatic orchestral music of Judith Shatin. The CD can be purchased directly from Capstone Records www.capstonerecords.com, or by calling 718-852-2919.

Three of the four pieces were recorded by the excellent Moravian Philharmonic, conducted by American conductor Joel Suben. These include *Piping the Earth*, *Stringing the Bow* (string orchestra) and *The Passion of St. Cecilia* (piano concerto), with noted pianist Gayle Martin Henry as the soloist. The fourth piece, *Ruah* (flute concerto), is a re-release of a recording made by the Prism Chamber Orchestra, led by the late conductor Robert Black. Flutist Renée Siebert, of the New York Philharmonic, is the featured soloist.

Shatin's music combines an inventive and explorative approach to timbre with a clear sense of musical form. In the words of Joseph McClellan, critic for the Washington Post, she is a composer "...fully in control of her material at all points and attuned to what makes an audience come back for more."

"exuberant and captivating"

The four pieces on *Piping the Earth* were date from 1985-1992, and display Shatin's inventive timbral world. The disk opens with the eponymous *Piping the Earth*, 8.5', inspired by the ancient Chinese text, *Chuang Tzu*. *Piping the Earth* was commissioned by the Women's Philharmonic and the National Endowment for the Arts in 1990, and was composed while Shatin was in residence at the Rockefeller Study and Conference Center in Bellagio. The premiere was met with great enthusiasm, and the San Francisco Chronicle found *Piping the Earth* to be "the highpoint of the program...exuberant and captivating...."

"marvelously inventive"

Stringing the Bow, for string orchestra, was commissioned by the Virginia Chamber Orchestra and Maestro Fabio Mechetti through the Virginia Commission for the Arts. The inspiration of the title links that of the bow and arrow with that of the bow as it activates the strings of an instrument. The Washington Post called *Stringing the Bow* "...a marvelously inventive piece, informed with a fine sense of musical logic...."

"multifaceted essay on the human spirit"

Ruah inhabits a different world: that of the Cabbalistic mystics. While in colloquial Hebrew the word means air or breath, in Cabbalistic mysticism it refers to the part of the soul that mediates between the body and spirit. The Washington Post called the piece "...a multifaceted essay on the human spirit," and noted the composer's "rich and disciplined imagination.

"fresh and bold"

The Passion of St. Cecilia, is a passionate outcry. It opens with an orchestral blast, conveying a hostile community confronting Cecilia. The second movement focuses on Cecilia's faith and the third on her martyrdom. The composer was inspired by the fifth-century legend of Cecilia as a Christian martyr, though her association with music is apocryphal. The Denver Post noted "The coloristic effects, language and ideas are fresh and bold."

The recording of Piping the Earth was made possible by research support from the University of Virginia. The recording of Ruah was made possible by a generous gift from Francis Goelet.