

Joshua Smith

Flute

The Flute Network™
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Air, a CD music of Debussy & Takemitsu performed by flutist Joshua Smith, Yolanda Kondonassis, and Cynthia Phelps, viola, and the Oberlin 21 ensemble conducted by / Bridget-Michele Reischl. Just released on TelarcRecords CD 80694. Price not yet available. Purchase on-line at: <http://www.telarc.com>.

The evocative musical worlds of Debussy and Toru Takemitsu complement each other well in terms of mood and aesthetic; and the three fine soloists on this recording are likewise a perfect match with their excellent blend of musicality, luscious tone, and intimate ensemble work. Three of the works on this album feature the clean and expressive harp playing by Kondonassis on major works, including Debussy's Dances sacrée et profane for harp and string orchestra and Sonate for flute, harp and viola, and Takemitsu's Toward the Sea. **Smith displays his singing tone and expressive interpretations on Debussy's Syrinx and Takemitsu's Air for solo flute.**

Cynthia Phelps, the principal viola of the New York Philharmonic, is equally well-known as a soloist and chamber music performer, and her sure technique and rich, vibrant sound adds sensitively to the voices of Kondonassis and Smith and shines on solo passages in Takemitsu's And Then I Knew 'Twas Wind. The engineering and production of this recording are first rate, with great resonance and a clear high definition digital sound.

Despite appearing on over 25 recordings and in a good number of live solo performances with the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra (where he was appointed principal flute in 1990 at the age of 20!), examples of Joshua Smith's great virtuosity and delicate lyricism are not yet as widely available on solo flute recordings as they should be. This new CD should create a demand for more recordings featuring his full tone, elegant style, and outstanding technique. He reveals a distinctively poetic style and the ability to communicate emotionally in all his performances here.

You can find a list of his other solo recordings at his website: <http://www.soloflute.com/home.html>, download selections here:

http://www.powellflutes.com/studio/studio_t3/studio_search.asp?a=artist&ArtistID=100, and learn more about his activities on a very interesting personal blog: <http://www.soloflute.blogspot.com/>