

Joshua Smith

Flute Talk

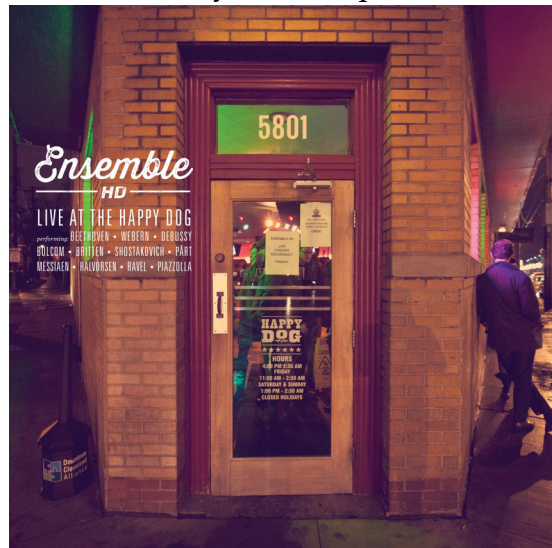
May/June 2014

Ensemble HD: Live at the Happy Dog CD

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Smith’s performance (is) instructive and inspiring”*

The two-vinyl set, recorded live at the Happy Dog bar, communicates with the listener as only live chamber music can do. The group, created and led by Joshua Smith, features members of The Cleveland Orchestra. The project was conceived to bring classical music to non-traditional venues and new audiences. Proceeds from the record will go to local music charities. Smith says he “was looking for ways to get classical music away from its sometimes – reverential stuffiness and into places where people congregate for fun. So many people now are interested in process, not just product. When we are three feet away from them, wearing jeans, drinking beer, and yet still

communicating directly and powerfully, the experience can be visceral and accessible.



Works on the recording that include flute are the Beethoven *Serenade for Flute, Violin, and Viola, Op. 25*, Arvo Pärt’s *Spiegel im Spiegel*, and Debussy’s *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*. The Debussy performance is one of the best out there. Students who are preparing the excerpt will find Smith’s performance instructive and inspiring. The

other compositions on this recording represent some of the gems in the chamber music repertoire. www.ensemble.bandcamp.com and downloadable at iTunes.