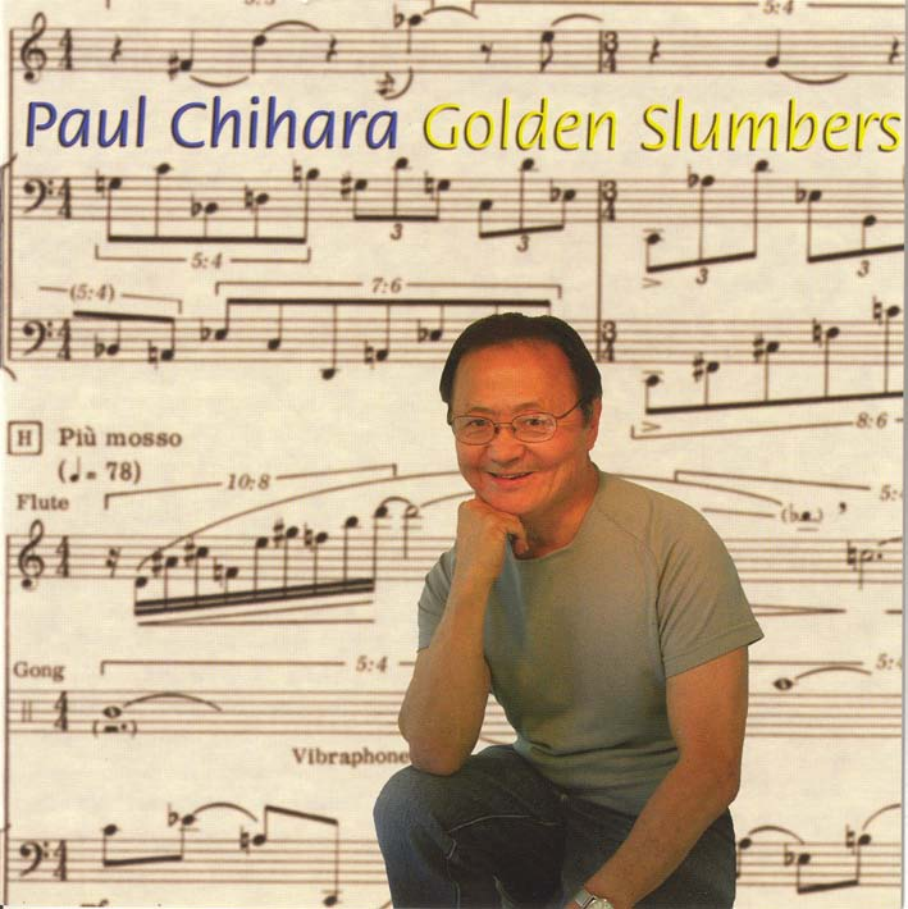


# Paul Chihara Golden Slumbers



[H] Più mosso  
(♩ = 78)

Flute

Gong

Vibraphone

This recording presents a selection of Paul Chihara's chamber music from his earliest to his most recent pieces. Beginning with the multi-dimensional *Ceremony I* (1971), and continuing through recent choral pieces both tonal and postmodern, these compositions offer an intimate exploration of the composer's musical personality rarely heard in his more theatrical scores for ballet, Broadway and the movies. Personal and original, with instrumental colors from East and West, the sonic and dramatic elements in these pieces combine in surprising and moving ways.

### HAIKU FOR TWO FLUTES

*Haiku for Two Flutes* are musical love poems, both expressive and gentle, originally composed in 1997 for two UCLA students for their senior recitals. The first Haiku is Japanese (like a woodcut, or perhaps a tiny lyric poem), the flutes suggesting the ancient Shaku-hachi. The second is distinctly American: song-like, lively, almost ragtime.

### PIANO TRIO

The *Piano Trio* was composed in 1974 for the Mirecourt Trio, and premiered by them at Carnegie Recital Hall the following year. The three movements are based on a lyric piano phrase which is stated at the outset of the work. This lyric phrase is itself based on a row from Anton Webern, whose music greatly influenced Chihara during his years as a student. The *Trio* begins introspectively, but soon develops in complexity, both contrapuntally and emotionally. The composer states, "It has a youthful vigor and exuberance — an example of my early *Strum und Drang!*"

### STRING TRIO

The *String Trio* was written in 1985 on commission from the Sarasota Music Festival. The composer designates this as his first piece based on his early studies in continuous variation or development. (At the time, he was strongly influenced by Escher's strips of visual transformation. Escher's work created a definite image for

composer had been working with Geraldine and Robert for several years, and the idea of bringing their musical talents together seemed inevitable and irresistible. The Brahms inspiration is the set of two songs (Opus 91) for voice, viola and piano, the second of which uses a familiar German folk song as a viola obbligato, against which the singer intones a simple original melody. In *Golden Slumbers*, the Brahms model has been reversed. The folk song (sung in German) is placed in the voices, while the viola plays an original Chihara melody. The text for the first song comes from the anonymous Elizabethan ballad "Golden Slumbers Kiss Your Eyes," which Paul McCartney adapted in his song of the same name. The result is a piece that is the composer's most Western-sounding. Yet, the lilting minor seconds and the subtle cadences in this beautifully moving piece leave the listener assured that this is not simply a variation on Brahms, but

## PAUL SEIKO CHIHARA

Paul Seiko Chihara was born in Seattle, Washington in 1938. He received his DMA from Cornell University in 1965 as a student of Robert Palmer. He also studied with Nadia Boulanger in Paris, Ernst Pepping in Berlin, and Gunther Schuller at Tanglewood. With Toru Takemitsu, Chihara was composer-in-residence at the Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont in 1971, and was the first composer-in-residence with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra (Neville Marriner, conductor). He is currently on the music faculty at UCLA.

Chihara's prize-winning concert works have been performed in most major cities and arts centers in the United States and Europe. Commissions and awards received include those from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Aaron Copland Fund, and the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as from the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the

Recognition and Talent Search Competition. Ms. Sopp performs regularly at the Lincoln Center and in the New York City metropolitan area.

### **GERALDINE WALTHER**

Geraldine Walther has been principal violist of the San Francisco Symphony since 1976 and is frequently featured as a soloist with the Orchestra. She also regularly plays in chamber groups with other top Bay Area musicians. Walther studied viola with Michael Tree at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, and with Lillian Fuchs at the Manhattan School of Music. She was first prize winner of the William Primrose International Competition in 1979, and in 1995 she was selected by Sir George Solti as a member of his "Musicians of the World Orchestra," which performed in Geneva, Switzerland to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

### **CAROL WINCENC**

Carol Wincenc is one of the most respected and acclaimed flutists performing today. She has appeared as a soloist with major orchestras around the world, and has premiered works written for her by many of the most prominent contemporary composers, including Arnold Black, Tobias Picker, Roberto Sierra, Michael Torke, Christopher Rouse, Lukas Foss, Peter Schickele, Joan Tower, Paul Schoenfield and Henryk Gorecki. In great demand as a chamber musician, she has collaborated with the Guarneri, Emerson, Tokyo and Cleveland string quartets, and performed with Jessye Norman, Emanuel Ax, Yo-Yo Ma and Elly Ameling. First Prize winner of the Walter W. Naumburg Solo Flute competition, she is presently a professor at the Julliard School.

### **SIR NEVILLE MARRINER**

One of the world's most recorded and beloved conductors of his generation, Sir Neville Marriner studied the violin at the Royal College of Music and at the Paris

## KENNETH GOLDSMITH

Kenneth Goldsmith began in 1958 as the youngest member of the Detroit Symphony, and has performed orchestral, chamber and solo music all over the world. In 1962 he won the Young Concert Artists Competition and won a special award in the 1980 Kennedy-Rockefeller Competition for American Music. He is currently Professor of Violin at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University.

Notes by Angie Kirk, writer and development coordinator, Los Angeles Philharmonic.

## PRODUCTION CREDITS

Produced by Paul Chihara and Don DiNicola

Digitally mastered by Marc Aubert, Elite Recordings, Inc.

Engineer: Stewart Lehrman (*Haiku for Two Flutes*); Alan Leichtling (*Piano Trio*, and *Elegy*); Michael Golub (*String Trio*); Robert Auger (*Ceremony I*); Don Ososke (*Golden Slumbers*)

Digital re-mastering: Bill Komar (*Ceremony I*); Olivier Ferrand (*Golden Slumbers*)

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