



En-Cor! AMERICAN HORN QUARTET



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Since its very beginning, the American Horn Quartet (AHQ) has placed great importance on the preservation of art, style, and virtuosity through recordings. Their first compact disc was released in 1989, and over the subsequent 25 years, the quartet has produced 10 different recordings for quartet, horn octet and various chamber ensembles, spanning more than 500 years of musical styles. There remained, however, an important slice of the AHQ repertoire that never found a place in this compendium.

A typical AHQ concert program comprises two or three major, multi-movement, original works for horn quartet, a representative work from the Romantic and the Baroque eras, with these focal points sewn together by a selection of smaller, lighter pieces. These charming concert-fillers — some original works and some arrangements — have become favorites of the loyal American Horn Quartet concertgoer. Indeed, many of these gems became their encores.

Some years ago, it became apparent that the group would one day be obliged to lay down these crowd-pleasers onto a recording, not only for posterity's sake, but also to produce a seriously good 53 minutes of music performed by four artists who are passionate about the horn quartet.

On this disc, the AHQ hides nothing. The listener hears the players breathe. One hears their valves click and the pages turn. The humanness of the players is audible in the group's astonishingly unified musicality and interpretation. The impression arises of sitting right in the middle of the ensemble. Indeed, these performances shimmer with life. It is a sincere approach to making music by a mature, world-class quartet that has been laying its art on the line, out on the stage and in the recording studio for 3 decades.

THE AMERICAN HORN QUARTET

Entering its thirtieth season, the American Horn Quartet continues to be unique in the field of brass chamber music. Their exuberant performances have brought audiences all over the world to their feet. In 1982, four American horn players who were working and residing in Europe met for the first time to explore the potential of the horn quartet, a chamber music formation with a much longer tradition than most people realize. Mastering the already existing repertoire, they then began to compose and arrange, as well as commission new works for the horn quartet. The individual members of the AHQ are all very successful soloists in their own right, having won top international competitions in Geneva, Prague, New York, Passau and Munich. It comes then as no surprise that together they brought home top honors at chamber music competitions in Barcs, Hungary (Philip Jones Competition), Brussels and Tokyo.

Over the past 20 years, besides being featured at horn and brass festivals around the globe, the American Horn Quartet has established itself at regular chamber music concert series on the international circuit. They have also appeared as soloists with numerous symphony orchestras, among them the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Sinfonia Varsovia, the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra of Moscow Radio, the Queensland Symphony in Brisbane, the Brabants Orchestra of Eindhoven and the Bordeaux Aquitaine Symphony Orchestra in France, just to name a few.

Some of the highlights of the AHQ career include their performance on stage at the Barbican in London, an appearance with orchestra at the world famous Tonhalle in Zürich, a recording collaboration with the horn section of the New York Philharmonic, a recital in Melbourne, Australia featuring the great horn soloist Barry Tuckwell in a cameo appearance, performances at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., and a five-minute standing ovation at the 20th International Horn Society Workshop in Tallahassee, Florida.

Summing up the career of an ensemble that has accomplished so much, presented over five hundred concerts and masterclasses world wide, and has produced ten CDs, is a difficult task indeed. Therefore we invite you to discover the American Horn Quartet for yourself.

Kristina Mascher plays a Ricco Kühn X383 triple horn; Charles Putnam plays a Rauch double horn; Kerry Turner plays a 1968 Paxman triple horn; Geoffrey Winter plays a Paxman Model 70 XL bore, gold brass. www.hornquartet.com

Charles Putnam is currently a member of the Beethoven Orchestra in Bonn, Germany. He was engaged by the Florida Orchestra in Tampa as assistant first horn immediately following college and soon after, won the principal horn position in the Israel Sinfonietta chamber orchestra in Beer Sheva, Israel. Mr. Putnam left Israel for a

position in Florence, Italy with the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino and after his second season in Florence, left for Germany where he was first hired by the Gelsenkirchen Philharmonic then won his current position with the Beethoven Orchestra in Bonn. Mr. Putnam is also active with the natural horn. He has toured internationally and recorded frequently with many prominent European baroque orchestras including Concentus Musicus Wien, Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra and Musica Antiqua Köln.

Geoffrey Winter has been principal horn of the Beethoven Orchestra Bonn, in Germany, since 1989. He has won solo prizes at the International Horn Competition in Markneukirchen and at the ARD Music Competition in Munich. Mr. Winter began playing the horn at the age of 7, and has studied with such leading hornists as Vince DeRosa, James Decker and Christopher Leuba. After holding the position of principal horn in the Municipal Symphonic Orchestra of Caracas, Venezuela, he moved to Europe after being engaged as 3rd horn with the Philharmonia Hungarica in Marl, West Germany. Beyond his orchestral work in Bonn, Mr. Winter's experience includes being guest principal horn at the Melbourne Ring Festival and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. During his 30 years as a member of the AHQ, Mr. Winter has also been a regular performer with other chamber music ensembles including Il Solisti Bonnum, the Philharmonic Brass Quintet and the Zephyr Brass Quintet.

Kristina Mascher, former principal horn of the Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra, and currently engaged with the Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg, hails from Albany, Oregon. She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Hanns Eisler Conservatory in Berlin, and also studied privately with Fergus McWilliam of the Berlin Philharmonic. Early in her career, she was engaged in various chamber and symphony orchestras, including the Odense Symfoniorkester in Denmark, as well

as three tours as principal horn with the Gustav-Mahler-Jugendorchester under the direction of Claudio Abbado, Pierre Boulez, and Kent Nagano. In addition to the AHQ, Kristina is a member of the Ni Ensemble of Luxembourg (First prizewinners at the 9th International Passau Competition) and forms with husband Kerry Turner the Virtuoso Horn Duo. Their critically acclaimed CD of works for two horns and chamber orchestra can be found on the MSR Classics label. Ms. Mascher has given master classes and performed in over 30 countries on six continents.

Kerry Turner has become one of the most recognized names, not only in the horn world, but in brass playing in general. Whether as a composer or a performing artist on the horn, he appears regularly on the great concert stages of the world. Mr. Turner's major ensembles with whom he performs include the world-famous American Horn Quartet, the stunning Virtuoso Horn Duo, and the Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra. As a member of these prestigious organizations, he has concertized on four continents. He is also a frequently invited soloist and clinician, having performed and taught in Germany, France, Portugal, Switzerland, Japan, the United States and the Czech Republic. A native of San Antonio, Texas, Kerry Turner received his Artist Diploma from the Manhattan School of Music in New York and, as a Fulbright Scholar, continued his studies with Hermann Baumann at the Stuttgart College of Music and Performing Arts. Following his studies, he placed 5th at the Geneva International Horn Competition and won the Bronze Medal at the 39th Prague Spring International Music Competition.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Produced, engineered and edited by Gregory K. Squires
Production assistance: Phyllis Lanini and Bud Fenker (Phoenix Music Publications)
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Further information concerning publishers is available upon request.

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Patrons: Cornua Irae Horn Quartet (Donald Harvey), James and Patricia Hord, Ken and Becca Moss, and Ricco Kuhn

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ricco Kuhn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

Supporters: Joe Kirtley, Craig and Gretchen Wittenberg, Jonathan Stoneman, Eloise Koch, Anthony Buddle, Jim and Sue Tumminello, Anthony Martin, Kendall Gray, Chris Brigham, James Patterson, Johnson Atton, Ken Pope, Lisa Emrich, Dimosthenis Dimitrakoulakos, Dr. David Crocker, Steven Schaugency, Armin Terzer, Cindy & Charlie Overton, Takeshi Nakamura, Annie Bosler, Katherine Teck, Robert and Jennifer Pirtle, Karren Garrity, Susanne and Andreas van Zoelen, Laura Scoble, Barbara Hall, Shannon Pedersen, John Wates, David & Barbara Fultz, Kenichi Shimizu, Stephan Groschel and the many others who contributed to our campaign. This CD is possible because of you.

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AMERICAN HORN QUARTET

- Aram Khachaturian (arr. Kaucher/Turner)**
 1 *Sabre Dance* (Gayane) [1:55]
Kerry Turner
 2 *Fiesta Fanfare* [1:19]
Claude Debussy (arr. Thompson/Turner)
 3 *The Girl with the Flaxen Hair* [2:11]
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (arr. Shaw)
 4 *Pizzicato Ostinato* (Symphony No. 4) [1:39]
Léo Delibes (arr. Martinet/Turner)
 5 *Flower Duet* (Lakme) [3:27]
George Gershwin (arr. Perkins)
 6 *It Ain't Necessarily So* (Porgy and Bess) [3:13]
George Gershwin (arr. Perkins)
 7 *Summertime* (Porgy and Bess) [2:50]
Lennon/McCartney (arr. Bracegirdle)
 8 *Eleanor Rigby* [2:58]
Henry Mancini/K. Turner
 9 *Moon River* [3:29]
Lev Kogan (arr. Bouchard)
 10 *Freilach II* [1:27]
Leonard Bernstein (arr. Perkins)
 11 *Maria* (*West Side Story*) [2:18]

- Leonard Bernstein (arr. Perkins)**
 12 *America - Tonight* (*West Side Story*) [3:29]
J.S. Bach (arr. Turner)
 13 *Sinfonia 11* (BWV797) [3:18]
Kerry Turner
 14 *Waltzing Matilda* [5:44]
 Steve Schaughency &
 Peter Dahlstrom, off-stage horns
J.S. Bach (arr. Turner)
 15 *Air on the G-String* (BWV1068) [2:49]
J.S. Bach (arr. Winter)
 16 *Fugue in G-minor "Little"* (BWV578) [3:03]
Anton Bruckner (arr. Hoeltzel)
 17 *Andante in D-flat* [2:02]
Lowell Shaw
 18 *Frippery 9 "Charleston"* [1:18]
Lowell Shaw
 19 *Frippery 14 "Something in Two"* [1:14]
Stanley Myers (arr. Turner)
 20 *Cavatina* (Deer Hunter) [3:31]

Total Time = 53:24



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