

SECRET MEMORIES Works

by Auerbach, Hauta-Aho,
Kurtág, Thommessen¹
Scelsi, Kullberg/Nørgård¹
Salles & Martinsson²

Dan Styffe (double bass)

Peter Herresthal¹ (violin)

Oslo Philharmonic

Orchestra/Jukka-

Pekka Saraste²

SIMAX CLASSICS PSC 1324

Luminous playing from a Swedish bassist



Rolf
Martinsson's
First Double Bass
Concerto is
the main work

on this disc. Before it comes a succession of short pieces, many of them for unaccompanied bass. The first of these, Lera Auerbach's *Memory of a Tango*, sets the general tone for the first part of the CD: a wistful piece,

Dan Styffe displays fluent lyricism and luminous tone

eloquently played. Dan Styffe sets a steady course through Teppo Hauta-Aho's *Poetic Caprice*, worrying away at scalic passages oscillating against open strings, before a persuasive performance of Kurtág's *Message—Consolation à Christian Sutter* a meditative, mournful work for a fellow bass player.

Violinist Peter Herresthal joins Styffe for two works: Olav Anton Thommessen's *A Lyrical Duet* and Jakob Kullberg/Per Nørgård's *Secret Voices*. The former, a fragmented work inhabiting a cool, beguiling harmonic landscape, is gently and beautifully played. So too is *Secret Voices*, a set of five movements in which the players feel their way forward hesitantly along a path of melodic wisps, with only the fourth movement providing any rhythmic vitality. Elsewhere, Styffe roams the note sets of Giacinto Scelsi's Asian-tinged *Mantram*, bending and sliding like a sitar player opening a raga. Styffe himself, in one of two portraits by Bernard Salles, comes across as quite a jolly chap.

The Concerto provides the only real contrast on this CD, with some vibrant orchestral writing alternating with Styffe's displays of fluent lyricism and luminous tone. The recorded sound is warm.

TIM HOMFRAY