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CD Recording: Schönberg +Jazz – Berio

About the CD, Konstantia Gourzi writes: “Luciano Berio’s Folk Songs embody for me a musical opposite, and balance, to Schoenberg’s music. There is an exceptionally exciting musical tension between the two, as if Pierrot is the question and Folk Songs the answer. I find that you can perform these works in a traditional concert hall, in a cabaret setting, in a bar or even on the beach – in every case, both attract total attention, the eye as well as the ear. Nonetheless, I did have a problem with Pierrot at first: its very dense composition seemed too intense to me. I needed a break between the three sections – some breathing space, a moment of “distraction” – in order really to be able to listen to the next part. I therefore tried to play the score on the piano, without the marked rhythm and dynamics. While doing this, I discovered that I tended to start improvising on Schoenberg’s themes. I was amazed how the Pierrot chords, played slowly, reminded me of jazz changes. So I asked the jazz pianist Maria Baptist if she would improvise with me, four-hands. In fact she liked the music so much that she decided to learn the whole, difficult piano part. Her interludes between Pierrot Lunaire’s sections, inspired by Schoenberg, clearly alter the experience of the work.”

opus21musikplus musicians:

Voice: Stella Doufexis

Jazz piano: Maria Baptist

Flute: Bruno Jouard

Clarinet: Dörte Seher

Violin: Lisa Schatzmann

Viola: Nils Mönkemeyer

Cello: Benjamin Santora

Harp: Helen Radice

Percussion: Philipp Jungk, Alex Glögger

Direction: Konstantia Gourzi