

# DVORÁK; MANSURIAN; MARTIN Piano Trios (Delta Piano Trio)

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Previous releases of Taneyev and Borodin (Naxos) and Shostakovich and Auerbach (Odradek) left little doubt as to the Delta Trio's range of sympathies or their interpretative commitment, qualities that are amply reinforced by the trios featured here.

Its three succinct movements belie the all-round resourcefulness of Frank Martin's *Trio sur des mélodies populaires irlandaises* (1925), which integrates folk melodies into an intricately contrapuntal *Allegro*, after which the *Adagio*'s alternately winsome and eloquent dialogue and the Gigue's mounting impetus follow in unforced and appealing contrast. Folk sources emerge much more equivocally with Tigran Mansurian's *Five Bagatelles* (1985), its wistful opening *Largo* duly setting the tone for a pair of introspective *Moderatos* that enclose a pair of volatile *Allegros*. What results is a cohesive entity, whose ominous demeanour reflects the troubled genesis not merely of this music but of Armenian culture across much of its history.

The greater familiarity of Dvořák's *Dumky* Trio (1891) should not detract from the striking originality of its concept: six movements whose juxtaposing of relatively slow and fast (song and dance) sections finds accord, however obliquely, with Classical forms. The initial three movements comprise a 'first movement', then the remainder unfold as an informal sequence of intermezzo, scherzo and finale. At least, this is the way in which the Delta Trio approach the piece, so that the whole demonstrably outweighs its attractive constituents.

The Osiris Trio's Martin and Dvořák have greater suavity if less incisiveness, and the Dvořák Trio's *Dumky* is more idiomatic in phrasing but not more convincing overall. With its superb sound and

perceptive notes, the present release can be warmly recommended if the coupling appeals.



## DVORÁK; MANSURIAN; MARTIN Piano Trios (Delta Piano Trio)

Trio sur des mélodies populaires irlandaises

5 Bagatelles, for violin, cello, and piano

Piano Trio No. 4, 'Dumky'

**Selected Comparisons**

DVOŘÁK; SMETANA Piano Trios

Osiris Trio - Folk Music

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