

Jeffrey Powers and Vincent de Vries

Into the 21st Century: Music for Horn and Piano by Baldwin, Bentzon, Pilss and Vignery

(Instrumental Studies / Music)

(Keyboard Studies / Music)

Multi-movement, larger scale works, and, in particular, the sonata, for horn and piano have long been a genre limited in number and quality. Those written by Beethoven (Sonata in F Major, Op. 17 for Horn and Piano) and Hindemith (Sonata for Horn and Piano – 1939) are the only existing such works written by master composers. However, there does exist a small body of significant works written by extremely accomplished, albeit less recognized, composers. After a number of years of researching, reading, preparing and performing many works in this genre we have made a selection of those we deem to be the most successful. These works are the Sonata for Horn and Piano, Op. 47 by the Danish composer Niels Viggo Bentzon (1919 – 2000), “Three Pieces in the Form of a Sonata” by the Austrian Karl Pilss (1902 - 1979), and the Sonata for Horn and Piano, Op. 7 by the Belgian Jane Vignery (1913 – 1974). These three composers represent several of the different trends in compositional style that co-existed and intertwined during the later half of the 20th century – from the conservative arch romanticism of Pilss to the Belgian nationalistic style, with its melding of French and Germanic influences, of Vignery to the progressive chromaticism of Bentzon. Also to be included in this collection is a newly commissioned work by the young American composer Daniel Baldwin (1978 -). His “Appalachian Suite for Horn and Piano” is a 20 minute long, four movement composition that demonstrates the influence of the minimalist school on Baldwin’s writing.

It is the purpose of this research project to produce a high quality recording of these works making them accessible to horn players around the world and thereby promoting additional performances of these deserving compositions. In our present time the recording has become the standard means whereby music is disseminated, and through the recording that a new piece is introduced and gains acceptance in the musical community. It is our desire to enrich the repertoire for horn and piano and to have these significant works enjoyed and appreciated by many.