



PRESS RELEASE

ALBANY RECORDS ANNOUNCES NEW RELEASE HAROLD BROWN: WORKS FOR STRINGS

Albany Records is proud to announce the release of *Harold Brown: Works for Strings*. Repertoire includes the two string quartets and the string quintet. The music is played by The Tessera Quartet—Emily Daggett Smith, violin; Cordelia Paw, violin; Edward Klorman, viola; Karen Ouzounian, cello—with Louise Schulman, viola.

Throughout his life, Harold Brown was known to the world as a violist, teacher and choral director and as one of the pioneers of the early music movement in North America, but this recording is the first to draw attention to his creativity as a composer. Indifferent to the various fashions and dogmas of 20th century classical music, Mr. Brown always marched to his own drum when it came to his compositions. His chamber works for strings, presented here, were composed mostly in the early to mid 1930s, representing his youthful, passionate style. Mr. Brown earned degrees from Columbia University and held teaching positions at New York's High School of Music and Art and Mansfield State College.

The Tessera Quartet is one of the most exciting chamber ensembles currently emerging on the concert scene, captivating audiences with its glowing sound and bold interpretations. A compelling mosaic of four accomplished young soloists, the Tessera Quartet was formed under the guidance of the renowned Juilliard String Quartet in 2007 and made its official New York debut on the storied Schneider Concerts series at the New School. Committed advocates for new music, the Tessera Quartet has worked closely with composers Aaron Jay Kernis, Russell Platt, and Lowell Liebermann. Other special collaborations include projects with pianists Claude Frank, Hamish Milne, and Orli Shaham, clarinetist Charles Neidich, and bassoonist Peter Kolkay.

The Renaissance Chorus Association began life as an outgrowth of the Renaissance Chorus of New York, which was founded by Harold Brown in 1954. The RCA is dedicated to preserving Mr. Brown's legacy and has organized several concerts and recordings of his music. One such concert, held in New York in 2009 to celebrate the centennial of Mr. Brown's birth, featured the Tessera Quartet with violist Louise Schulman. This recording is the happy result of that collaboration.

HAROLD BROWN (TROY1352) is available online at www.albanyrecords.com, at fine record stores or from

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