

# JULIAN BLISS



Julian Bliss (clarinet)  
Sabine Meyer (clarinet)  
Concerto for Two Clarinets, Franz Krommer  
Concerto No.2, No.4, Louis Spohr  
St.Martin-in-the-Fields, Kenneth Sillito

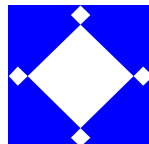
This is an intriguing pairing of two violinist-composers, the Moravian Franz Krommer (originally František Kramář),

Three years younger than Mozart, and the German Louis Spohr, born a quarter of a century later: both essentially classical in orientation, but open to the growing influence of Romanticism; both capable of writing substantial and effective concertos, with dramatic slow movements and exuberant polonaise finales.

Equally intriguing is EMI's deployment of these two clarinet stars, one firmly established at the top of her profession, the other a prodigiously gifted teenager. Together they swoop and glide and bubble delightfully through Krommer's double concerto; Sabine Meyer makes light of the considerable difficulties of Spohr's Fourth Concerto with soft-grained and wonderfully even tone; Julian Bliss is

technically impressive and only slightly less characterful in the Second. The Academy of St. Martin's provides predictably excellent support, though it sounds somewhat overbearing in a big acoustic, with woodwind solos artificially spotlit.

This performance of the Krommer outclasses its only current rival, on an all-Krommer disc by Hungarian performers on Naxos. Naxos also has a pairing of the Spohr Second and fourth concertos, with a fine soloist in Ernst Ottensamer but some untidy orchestral playing in a boomy acoustic. And, comparisons aside, this disc with Julian Bliss and Sabine Meyer is overall a very appealing package.



## **IMG Artists**

*For more information about Julian Bliss please contact Sara Hunt  
IMG Artists, The Light Box, 111 Power Road, London W4 5PY  
Tel: +44 20 8233 8500 5859 Fax: +44 20 8233 5801  
Email: [shunt@imgartists.com](mailto:shunt@imgartists.com)*