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## 'Notable Women'

Auerbach Piano Trio Garrop Seven Higdon Piano

Trio Schwendinger *C'e la luna questa sera?*

AR Thomas Moon Jig Tower Trio Cavany

Lincoln Trio

Cedille © CDR90000 126 (67' • DDD)



**Lincoln Trio with six works  
from living composers**

Something about the composers on the Lincoln Trio's new recording, 'Notable Women', is more notable than the fact that they're women. What they also have in common is a gift for writing music that is strong in personality and expert in craftsmanship.

The two most concise works are by the composers with the longest names, Laura Elise Schwendinger's *C'e la luna questa sera?* and Augusta Read Thomas's *Moon Jig*. Schwendinger's shimmering inspiration – Lake Como under a moonlit sky – can be discerned in the starry piano figures and high phrases shared by violin and piano. Thomas thrusts the jig into dark territory where the piano darts ominously amid string *pizzicatos* and slashing flourishes.

Lera Auerbach's three-movement Trio begins with disembodied sobs and sighs (strings playing near the bridge) and moves to a slow movement of affecting nostalgia and a finale that swirls with perpetual-motion rage. The title of Joan Tower's temperamental *Trio Cavany* notes the states (California, Virginia, New York) where music festivals commissioned the score. The work shifts stylistic ground generously as the players interact or head in their own directions.

Stacy Garrop's *Seven* derives its vehement and hallucinatory moods from the poet Anne Sexton and the TV show *Star Trek: Voyager*. The piano plays inside the instrument and the strings buzz with abandon. In 'Pale Yellow,' the first movement of her Piano Trio, Jennifer Higdon basks in poetic lines and tonal harmonies before embracing Bartók-like fury in the second movement, 'Fiery Red'.

The performances by the Lincoln Trio are models of vibrancy and control. The notables on this recording could hardly have better champions.

**Donald Rosenberg**