
NEWS & INFORMATION

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Product News Release

For: The Chicago Classical Recording Foundation
CEDILLE RECORDS
1205 W. BALMORAL
CHICAGO, IL 60640

**MODERNIST TIMES:
PIANIST BLACKWOOD LOOKS BACK
AT FORWARD-LOOKING COMPOSERS**

Pianist Easley Blackwood, celebrated for his performances of transcendently difficult modern works, makes his solo recording debut with an imaginative excursion through works by two early modernists.

The program, on Chicago's new Cedille label, combines works by Italian composer Alfredo Casella and Polish master Karol Szymanowski. Both absorbed the cosmopolitan influences of pre-World War I Paris, Vienna and Berlin. With the outbreak of war, both retreated into isolation in their homelands and began to write their finest music.

In keeping with Cedille's focus on interesting, overlooked music, the Casella and Szymanowski pieces have little competition, and Casella's Nove Pezzi is available nowhere else in the U.S. market.

Blackwood studied with such legendary figures as Olivier Messiaen, Paul Hindemith, and Nadia Boulanger. He is pianist with the Grammy award-winning Chicago Pro Musica, a chamber group whose other players are Chicago Symphony Orchestra members, and is a music professor at the University of Chicago.

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Casella: Sonatina, Op. 28; Nove Pezzi, Op. 24
Szymanowski: Masques, Op. 34
Easley Blackwood, piano
Cedille CDR 90000 003