

Cedille Records
4311 N Ravenswood Ave., Ste. 202
Chicago, IL 60613
(773) 989-2515
www.cedillerecords.org

Press contact: Nat Silverman
Nathan J. Silverman Co. PR
2906 Central St. #250
Evanston, IL 60201-1283
Phone: (847) 868-1417
Email: natsilv@aol.com

News

Recording release date: March 11, 2022

August Read Thomas’s ‘Song Without Words,’ Performed by Oboist Alex Klein and Pianist Phillip Bush, To Be Released March 11 on Cedille Records

The commercial recording premiere of Chicago composer August Read Thomas’s “Song Without Words,” performed by oboist Alex Klein and pianist Phillip Bush, will be released as a digital single track available for streaming and download March 11, 2022, on Cedille Records.

Cedille describes “Song Without Words,” written in 2018, as “chamber music shared between equal partners, oboe and piano, who work together to create a beautiful performance of a lyrical, elegant, and poignant composition that is immediate while, at the same time, holds deep, rich sonic meanings.”

The label’s program note continues:

“The music’s delicate use of sonic alliteration, assonance, simile, slant rhymes, and other poetic devices reveals a composer with a poetic sensibility who composes entirely ‘heard’ music.

“The contrapuntal back and forth between the lyrical oboe line and the somewhat jazzy piano harmonies develops and increases, always allied to an interwoven flow, timbre, texture, and resonance.

“The duo braid together to create an artwork that captures and expresses the aura of the e.e. cummings poem, ‘I Have Found What You Are Like’ — without a single word of text ever being sung (or spoken).”

Klein, named the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s Principal Oboe Emeritus by music director Ricardo Muti, says he first performed the work on a July 6, 2021, Rush Hour Concerts recital in Chicago.

“The music of Augusta Read Thomas has always inspired me by its space,” Klein says. “There is a fluidity and grandeur within it, an entire universe of sound in a small package. I have noticed this in her chamber works as well as her orchestral writing. The result is an ethereal, calm landscape that is a welcome challenge to the instrumentalists, the musicians and the thinkers on stage.”

-more-

The free-standing track will be released on the same date as, but apart from, Klein and Bush’s forthcoming album *When There Are No Words: Revolutionary Works for Oboe and Piano* (CDR 90000 208).

The similarity between the title of Read Thomas’s piece and that of the new album is coincidental, according to James Ginsburg, Cedille Records founder and president.

“Song Without Words” was recorded by the Grammy Award-winning team of producer Ginsburg and engineer Bill Maylone in July 2021 during the same sessions as the album.

Ginsburg recalls having first heard “Song Without Words” at Klein’s Chicago recital, shortly before the album’s recording sessions.

Ginsburg says that while “Song Without Words” didn’t fit the album’s theme, “when I heard Alex play it live and discovered what a lovely, contemplative piece it was, I approached him and Gusty [Read Thomas] with the idea of a separate digital release.”

#

Augusta Read Thomas: “Song Without Words”
Cedille Records CDR 3012
Running time: 6:39
Alex Klein, oboe
Phillip Bush, piano
Commercial recording premiere