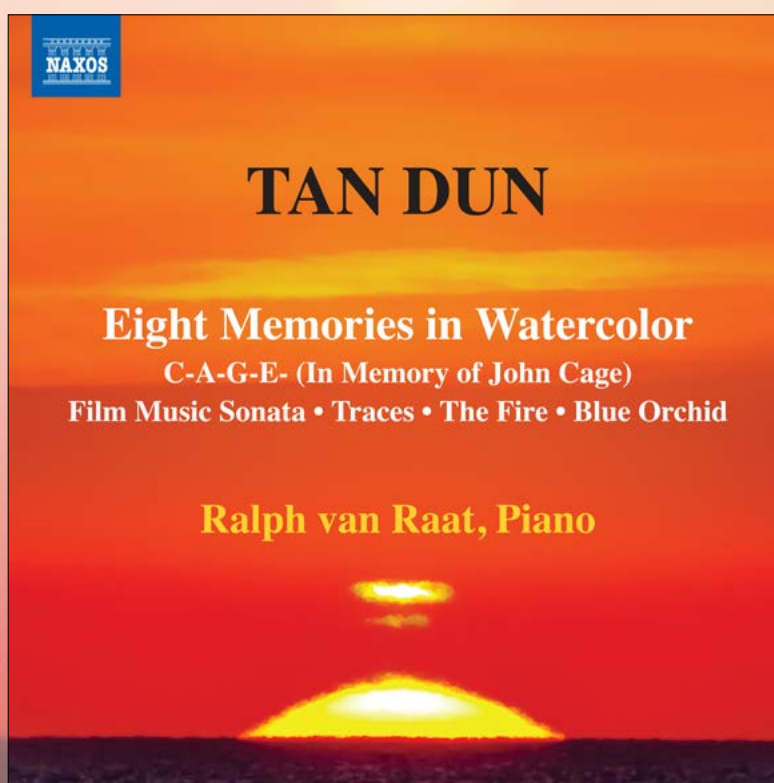




Ralph van Raat

performs

Tan Dun's solo piano music, premiering *The Fire*



Tan Dun



Ralph van Raat



Tan Dun and Ralph van Raat

8.570621
Price Code: NXPPlaying Time: 73:06
Release Date:
10 Jun 2022

Tan DUN (b. 1957)
Eight Memories in Watercolor
C-A-G-E- (In Memory of John Cage)
Film Music Sonata • Traces
The Fire * • Blue Orchid
 Ralph van Raat, Piano

*** WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING**

Tan Dun's originality has been reflected in worldwide recognition of his music, which draws on both Chinese and Western musical languages. The *Eight Memories in Watercolor* are deft painterly reflections, while in *Traces* he balances sound with silence in this evocation of nature. The vibrant drama of *Blue Orchid* incorporates the opening motif of Beethoven's *Diabelli Variations*. In *Film Music Sonata*, which here receives its first recording on general release, Tan Dun draws on his score for the film *The Banquet*. The kaleidoscopic *C-A-G-E-*, strikingly Chinese in sound, is a tribute to his teacher and spiritual compass, John Cage. *The Fire*, written for Ralph van Raat, contains some of Tan Dun's most virtuosic and dramatic piano writing.

Key Features:

- **Tan Dun** won both an Academy Award and a GRAMMY Award for his film score for Ang Lee's *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.
- The programme on this new release includes the world premiere recording of *Film Music Sonata*, based on the music the composer wrote for *The Banquet*, very loosely based on *Hamlet* and has been released on DVD in the United States under the title *Legend of the Black Scorpion*.
- His *Concerto for Orchestra* on Naxos 8.570608 should be promoted: 'This is a vivid demonstration of true orchestral virtuosity, with Tan Dun's experimental effects superbly realised, and all captured in fulsome sound' (*Gramophone Critic's Choice*).
- Ralph van Raat received critical acclaim for his recordings of contemporary piano music including John Adams' *Phrygian Gates* and *Hallelujah Junction* (8.559285), and Frederic Rzewski's *The People United Will Never Be Defeated!* (8.559360). His most recent release *French Piano Rarities* (8.573894) included the premiere recording of Boulez's hitherto unknown student work *Prélude, Toccata et Scherzo*.





‘Tan Dun’s piano music forms an intimate reflection not only of the broad range and history of his composing, but also of the journey of his artistic soul, of his musical and philosophical discoveries, and of his personal memories.

A major factor in the development of Tan Dun’s artistic approach as a young composer in New York was the acquaintance and ensuing friendship with someone who was to become his most admired teacher, colleague, philosopher and musical and spiritual compass: John Cage (1912–1992). After Cage passed away, Tan Dun immediately paid homage to his deceased friend by composing a ‘fingering for piano’ called *C-A-G-E- (In Memory of John Cage)* (1993), using the experimental possibilities and tone colours of almost exclusively the pitches corresponding to his mentor’s name: C, A, G and E.’

– *Ralph van Raat*

About Ralph van Raat, Piano

Ralph van Raat is the recipient of a substantial number of national and international awards, many composers have written solo works for him, and he has performed over 50 piano concertos with orchestras worldwide such as the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. He has also recorded over 30 albums. Van Raat is a frequent speaker and performer on radio and television shows, and teaches at both the Conservatorium van Amsterdam and the Accademia di Musica di Pinerolo, Turin in between his busy concert schedule. Van Raat was named a Steinway Artist in 2003.

Ralph van Raat's previous Naxos recordings

8.559285



'The performances by Ralph van Raat [are] a triumph... van Raat obtains a near-hypnotic control in the two early pieces, almost mechanical in its reliability, and he bubbles with life in the later two.'
– *International Piano*



★★★★



6 36943 92852 3

8.570542



'Ralph van Raat is admirably attuned to the music's intricate voicing and weighting, helped by a recording that gives the piano just the right amount of presence and space.'
– *Gramophone*

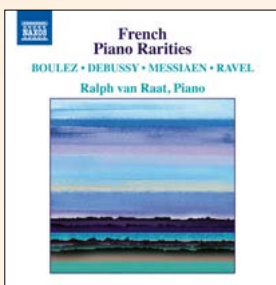


NOMINEE FOR RECORDING OF THE YEAR



7 47313 05427 5

8.573894



'This release by pianist Ralph van Raat delivers the promised rarities... Heartily recommended to any lover of the French style.'
– *AllMusic.com* ★★★★★



BEST ALBUMS OF 2020



★★★★



★★★★



★★★★

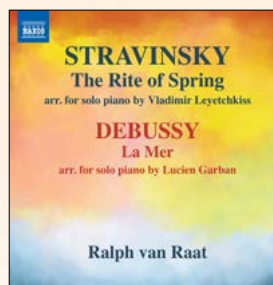


★★★★



7 47313 38947 6

8.573576



'Insightful performances, although certainly paler than the orchestral versions of the music, are genuinely interesting in themselves, coming across not as piano reductions but as piano rethinks – and ones performed very thoughtfully.'
– *Infodad.com* ★★★★★



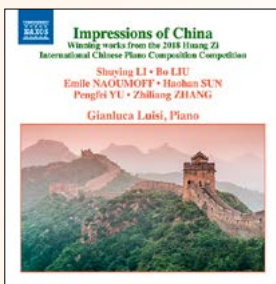
ALLMUSIC EDITORS' CHOICE



7 47313 35767 3

Select releases on the Chinese Classics series

8.579070



'All in all, an interesting album of fresh-sounding piano music.'
– *The Congleton Chronicle*



★★★★



7 47313 90707 6

8.570602

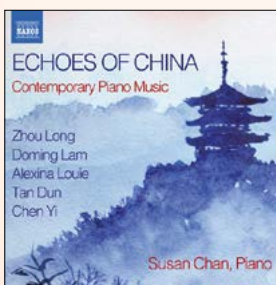


'Jie Chen plays this music charmingly, and with a bright and clean sound.'
– *Classical Net*



7 47313 06027 6

8.570616



'Excellent and thought-provoking, this is a necessary purchase for anyone even remotely interested in Chinese composers.'
– *Fanfare*



7 47313 06167 9

8.570608



'This is a vivid demonstration of true orchestral virtuosity, with Tan Dun's experimental effects superbly realised, and all captured in fulsome sound.'
– *Gramophone*



GRAMOPHONE CRITIC'S CHOICE



7 47313 06087 0