

# Nancy Galbraith

## STRANGE TRAVELS



CRC 3409

**Effervescent Air** (15:03)  
1 Effervescent Air 5:33  
2 Sylphine Sails 4:56  
3 Coal and Ice 4:33  
Carnegie Mellon Baroque Ensemble, Daniel Nesta Curtis, conductor;  
Stephen Schultz, Baroque flute; Luz Manriquez, piano

4 **Euphonic Blues** (recorded live) 9:47  
Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic Orchestra, Ronald Zollman, conductor

**Three Preludes for Piano** (14:21)  
5 Allegro con brio 4:20  
6 Languendo 4:35  
7 Energico 5:25  
Rishi Mirchandani, piano

**Strange Travels** (11:54)  
8 Khao San Road 5:16  
9 Ayutthaya 6:37  
Carnegie Mellon Contemporary Ensemble,  
Daniel Nesta Curtis, conductor

**Total Time** 51:06

Effervescent Air recorded November 6-9, 2013 at Carnegie Mellon Recording Studios, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Produced by Nancy Galbraith, Daniel Nesta Curtis and Stephen Schultz. Engineered by Jesse Soracco, Sang Mok Lee and Riccardo Schulz. Edited and Mixed by Jesse Soracco. Euphonic Blues recorded live, September 12, 2012 at Carnegie Music Hall, Pittsburgh. Produced by Riccardo Schulz and Sang Mok Lee. Engineered by Sang Mok Lee. Edited and mixed by Riccardo Schulz and Jesse Soracco.

Three Preludes recorded November 16, 2013 at Carnegie Mellon Recording Studios. Produced by Nancy Galbraith. Engineered, edited and mixed by Jesse Soracco.

Strange Travels recorded April 30, 2014 at Alumni Concert Hall, Pittsburgh. Produced by Nancy Galbraith and Daniel Nesta Curtis. Engineered edited and mixed by Jesse Soracco.

Audio Mastering: Jesse Soracco. Executive Producer: Matthew Galbraith.  
All works published by Subito Music Publishing (ASCAP).

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## STRANGE TRAVELS



*featuring Carnegie Mellon School of Music musicians*

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Nancy Galbraith has enjoyed performances and recordings of her music by a distinguished list of great artists throughout her 35-year career as a composer of contemporary classical works. But some of the most talented musicians with whom she has collaborated have been found in her own backyard at the Carnegie Mellon University School of Music, where she has taught for over three decades. Under the direction of the school's head, Denis Colwell, the School of Music offers a teeming environment of performance activities, featuring ensembles of every kind and an outstanding recording technology program. This album spotlights a sampling of the many extraordinary faculty and student performers who may be found at the Carnegie Mellon School of Music in any given academic year.

**Effervescent Air** (2012) was premiered in 2012 by the Carnegie Mellon Baroque Ensemble, conducted by Daniel Nesta Curtis, with Stephen Shultz on amplified Baroque flute and Luz Manriquez on amplified piano. It was recorded the following year in several studio sessions at Carnegie Mellon. Occasional echoing effects from

the two soloists are produced using digital delay and reverb pedals. The first and third movements, *Effervescent Air* and *Coal and Ice*, are light and airy, fast and rhythmic, and the middle movement, *Sylphine Sails*, is serene and reflective.

**Euphonic Blues** (2012) was composed for the Carnegie Mellon School of Music for its Centennial Celebration. It was premiered in 2012 by the Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic Orchestra, led by Maestro Ronald Zollman, at Carnegie Music Hall in Pittsburgh. The work opens with soft, long lyrical lines in the strings, and a melodic flute solo. After further development, the music evolves into a majestic tutti orchestral climax. This is followed by a dance-like middle section that is abruptly interrupted by another rhythmic section in 7/8 meter. A sudden trumpet fanfare leads to a repeat of the earlier bluesy climax, and the work closes quietly and nostalgically as it began.

**Three Preludes for Piano** (2011) was composed for pianist Sanjung Lee, who performed the premiere in Kumho Art Hall in Seoul, Korea in 2013. The US premiere was performed in 2014 at Carnegie Mellon

by 15-year-old Rishi Mirchandani, who recorded the work a month later in one studio session. The three movements – *Allegro Con Brio*, *Languendo*, and *Energico* – are intensely virtuosic, with the more pensive middle movement providing contrast to the fierier outer movements.

**Strange Travels** (2013) was premiered in 2014 by the Carnegie Mellon Contemporary Ensemble, conducted by Daniel Nesta Curtis, and recorded shortly thereafter in one studio session. The title alludes to the sensation of motion, imparted by the music, through two aural landscapes of an unfamiliar, almost otherworldly nature. The first movement, *Khao San Road*, is a mostly fast-paced journey through a frontier of orchestral textures and colors. The second movement, *Ayuthaya*, is slower and dreamier, with recurring accents from the electric string pizzicatos. The movements are named in honor of two special places in Thailand, although the music is not programmatic in that regard.

**Nancy Galbraith** (b. 1951) is Professor of Composition at the Carnegie Mellon University School of Music. Her works appear on numerous recordings, including seven anthologies. Her symphonic works have been performed in the US, Latin America and Europe, and have enjoyed regular performances by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, including premieres led by Gennady Rozhdetsvensky, Mariss Jansons and Donald Runnicles. Her works for concert bands are standard repertoire for ensembles around the world. Her chamber works have been performed by members of the New York Philharmonic and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. An accomplished pianist and organist, Galbraith has composed a number of works for those instruments. Her Piano Sonata No. 1 is a familiar component of contemporary piano literature. Galbraith has also



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produced a substantial body of major choral works, beginning with commissions from the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh for *Missa Mysteriorum*, and *Requiem* – a landmark achievement that was declared “a masterpiece” by the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. Born into a musical family in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Galbraith began piano studies at age four. She earned degrees in composition from Ohio University and West Virginia University, and continued advanced studies in composition, piano, and organ at Carnegie Mellon. Her works are published by Subito Music in Verona, New Jersey.

**Daniel Nesta Curtis** (b.1986) grew up in Key West, Florida. He received conducting degrees from Amherst College and Carnegie Mellon University. Curtis presently serves as Resident Conductor at the Carnegie Mellon School of Music and Artistic Director of the Carnegie Mellon Contemporary Ensemble. He recently founded the Pittsburgh-based TEPKI music collective. From 2011-2013, Curtis was Assistant Conductor of the Brooklyn Philharmonic, where he assisted in the production of concert events praised by the New York Times as “truly inspiring.” He

previously served as Associate Conductor of the Bleecker Street Opera Company and Assistant Conductor of the Amor Artis Chorale.

**Ronald Zollman** (b. 1950) was born in Antwerp, Belgium. He presently serves as Principal Guest Conductor of the Czech Radio Symphony Orchestra in Prague. Past positions include Musical Director of the National Orchestra of Belgium, Music Director of the Philharmonic Orchestra of UNAM in Mexico City, Music Director of the Northern Israel Symphony, and Director of Orchestral Studies at the Carnegie Mellon School of Music. He has led the Belgian National Opera, London’s English National Opera, and the Scottish Opera, and has guest conducted and recorded with numerous orchestras in Europe, Asia, Australia, and the Americas.

**Stephen Schultz** (b. 1950), called “among the most flawless artists on the Baroque flute” is solo and principal flute with the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Musica Angelica. He performs with other leading early-music groups, including Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, Chatham Baroque and Apollo’s Fire, and appears on

over fifty recordings. He is also known for his performances of electro-acoustic works with world-music groups such as D’CuCKOO and Haunted By Waters. Schultz is Teaching Professor at the Carnegie Mellon School of Music, and Music Director of the Carnegie Mellon Baroque Ensemble. He holds degrees from the Royal Conservatory of Music in the Netherlands, the California Institute of the Arts, and San Francisco State University.

**Luz Manriquez** was born in Santiago, Chile. She holds degrees from the Escuela Moderna de Musica, the Catholic University in Chile, and Carnegie Mellon University. She is prized as a chamber musician and collaborative pianist throughout the United States, Latin America and Europe. In the Pittsburgh area, she collaborates frequently in concerts and recordings with members of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, including principal oboist Cynthia DeAlmeida and former concertmaster Andrés Cardenes. At Carnegie Mellon, Manriquez is Associate Teaching Professor of Collaborative Piano, co-founding director of the Collaborative Piano Department, and a teacher at the Preparatory School of Music, where her

students are regular winners of major contests, including the World Piano Competition in Cincinnati.

**Rishi Mirchandani** (b. 1996) attends Fox Chapel Area High School near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He studies piano with Luz Manriquez at Carnegie Mellon University and has participated in master classes with Lang Lang and Isaac Steiner. He has won the World Piano Competition in Cincinnati, the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra Concerto Competition, a Steinway Young Artist award, the Pittsburgh Concert Society Young Artist Competition, and the Duquesne Young Artist National Competition. He has appeared as soloist with the World Festival Orchestra, the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra, the McKeesport Symphony Orchestra, and will solo with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in 2015. Rishi has also won two Grand Awards at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.