

OPERA CANADA, Winter 2009

L'ACCORDÉONISTE

Kimberly Barber/Peter Tiefenbach/Mary-Lou Vetere

ACCCD09



Here's an interesting program that brings together German Kabaret, French cabaret, Italian popular song and Latin-based tango and instrumental music. The ensemble performing it includes pianist Peter Tiefenbach, mezzo Kimberly Barber, accordionist and musicologist Mary-Lou Vetere and the New Berlin Ensemble: violinist Julie Baumgartel, cellist Paul Pulford and percussionist Carol Baumann. It's an

eclectic mix, but works very, very well in a program that requires the technique and interpretative flair of accomplished classical musicians in repertoire that is skillfully and artfully composed to sound casual. Barber and the New Berlin Ensemble are on faculty of Ontario's University of Waterloo, where this disc was recorded in January 2009 in the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall.

Barber is appealing in a program that requires her to switch from the gritty street-wise swagger of the Hanns Eisler/Berthold Brecht "There's Nothing Quite Like Money" (oh, how I wish Eisler was included in such programs as much as

Weill) to the more wistful "Chitarra Abruzzese" by Paolo Tosti. The common thread throughout is the accordion of Mary Lou Vetere, who gives splendid expression to the instrument's versatility. Indeed, kudos to all the musicians here for the inventiveness of their accompaniments.
—WG