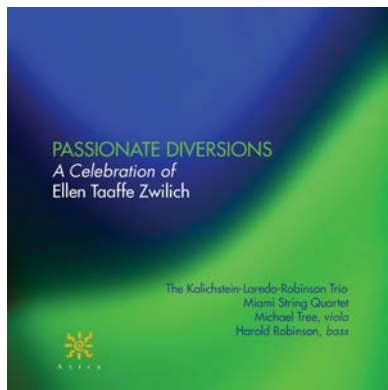


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***PASSIONATE DIVERSIONS – A CELEBRATION OF ELLEN TAAFFE ZWILICH,
A NEW RECORDING BY THE KALICHSTEIN-LAREDO-ROBINSON TRIO
WITH THE MIAMI STRING QUARTET, MICHAEL TREE, AND HAROLD ROBINSON,
FEATURES THREE OF THE COMPOSER’S MOST ACCLAIMED WORKS***

Azica Records Disc To Be Released April 22, 2014



“You can’t do better than composing for these artists,” the eminent American composer Ellen Taaffe Zwilich has said about the Kalichstein-Laredo Robinson (KLR) Trio – Joseph Kalichstein, piano; Jaime Laredo, violin; and Sharon Robinson, cello. “To have this kind of mutual relationship — that has gone on for all of these years — is a very inspiring thing for me as a composer,” Zwilich told NPR in 2011. She has written five works for members of the legendary ensemble over the years, and the trio, joined by guest artists, have recorded three of them for their latest CD, titled ***Passionate Diversions – A Celebration of Ellen Taaffe Zwilich***: Trio for Piano, Violin, and Cello (1987); Septet for Piano Trio and String Quartet (2008), with the Miami String Quartet; and Quintet for Violin, Viola, Cello, Contrabass, and Piano (2010), with violist Michael Tree and contrabassist Harold Robinson. The Azica Records disc will be released on April 22, 2014, distributed by Naxos USA, and available also on Amazon and iTunes.

Trio for Piano, Violin, and Cello (1987) – Commissioned by the Abe Fortas Memorial Fund of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the 92nd Street Y (New York) and San Francisco Performances, Inc., this first work composed by Zwilich for the KLR Trio has become a mainstay of the contemporary chamber music repertoire. John von Rhein described it in the Chicago Tribune as “music that is brilliant in conception, crystalline in organization, dramatic yet accessible in expression,” and it prompted Richard Dyer of The Boston Globe to dub Zwilich “one of the finest composers of her generation.”

Septet for Piano Trio and String Quartet (2008) – “The fact that there is no model for such a Septet made the pre-composition process a most enjoyable exploration,” says Zwilich about this work, which had its premiere during the composer’s 70th birthday year. “I liked the idea of having two strong ensemble personalities in the mix.” “Constant imagination” is how Joseph Kalichstein has described the Septet, which was commissioned by a consortium of 11 American presenting organizations. Donald Rosenberg of The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer described it as “a finely wrought, organic and rich tapestry of ideas,” and John Fleming of The St. Petersburg Times called it simply “a modern masterpiece.”

Quintet for Violin, Viola, Cello, Contrabass, and Piano (2010) – Zwilich wrote this work for the same instrumentation as Schubert’s famed “Trout” Quintet, and “couldn't resist using a very small quote from the Schubert song on which his Quintet is based.” The bluesy second movement spins out musical images of a “moody” trout, and “the piece has a pulse that makes it hard to resist,” said Allan Kozinn in The New York Times. Commissioned by a national consortium of 10 presenters, the piece garnered praise over the course of its tour around the country. “The 72-year-old author of numerous rock-solid concertos and chamber works was commissioned ... to write for the instrumentation of Schubert's Trout Quintet, and if anything, found an even more defined voice,” said David Patrick Stearns in The Philadelphia Inquirer. “Zwilich's fine Quintet came off as if the melodious Schubert piece didn't exist.”

“I have been blessed with many wonderful performances of my music, but the more than two decades between the Piano Trio and the Quintet mark my longest and most rewarding musical relationship,” says Zwilich in her CD note. “Yossi, Sharon, and Jaime have inspired some of my best work, and I have repeatedly been thrilled by the depth of their understanding, the passion they bring to it, and their commitment to continuing performances of my music. No composer – past or present – could ask for more!”

At a time when the musical offerings of the world are more varied than ever before, few composers have emerged with the unique personality of **Ellen Taaffe Zwilich**. Her music is widely known because it is performed, recorded, broadcast, and – above all – listened to and liked by all sorts of audiences the world over. Baker’s Biographical Dictionary of Musicians [8th edition] states: “There are not many composers in the modern world who possess the lucky combination of writing music of substance and at the same time exercising an immediate appeal to mixed audiences. Zwilich offers this happy combination of purely technical excellence and a distinct power of communication.”

A prolific composer in virtually all media, Ellen Taaffe Zwilich’s works have been performed by most of the leading American orchestras and by major ensembles abroad. Her works include five symphonies and a string of concertos commissioned and performed over the past two decades by the nation’s top orchestras. Visit [Ellen Taaffe Zwilich's pages](#) on the Theodore Presser Company site.

Passionate Diversions – A Celebration of Ellen Taaffe Zwilich

[Azica Records ACD 71292](#)

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