

Why a Classical Music CD?

Tracy Dietrich and Cindy Wittenberg from Lancaster, PA, are classically trained professional musicians, both with degrees in their own instrumental fields: Tracy (flute performance) from Indiana University of PA (Indiana, PA) and Cindy (piano performance) from Peabody Conservatory (Baltimore, MD). Their custom-designed arrangements which use colorful instrumentation and additional countermelodies, demonstrate a wide knowledge and experience in the world of classical music.

As common as many of these pieces are on classical albums, Silver, Wood & Ivory's style of arranging shines a new light and perspective on each melody and underlying harmonies. If familiar with these pieces, one may note that throughout each Silver, Wood & Ivory arrangement, **original melodies and harmonies** have been strictly maintained to keep the integrity of the composer's work intact. Through the wonders of technology and layering of tracks, Cindy and Tracy are able to perform all parts themselves.

Tracy's natural gift of perfect pitch (absolute pitch, or perfect pitch, is the ability to name the pitch of a note without reference to another note), astounding breath control, and perfectly designed phrasing makes this CD one of a kind in the world of classical flute and recorder music. Her expertise with various sized flutes, recorders, and other miscellaneous instruments demonstrates a talent that goes far beyond her training. Overall, her memory and musicianship are superb. **On this album, 8 flutes/recorders** are utilized at different times throughout: silver flute, wooden flute, alto flute, bass flute, contrabass flute, piccolo, soprano recorder and alto recorder. **Rarely seen or heard is the contrabass flute** which can be played one note down below a cello's lowest note. Beethoven's *Adagio Cantabile movement* from *Pathetique Piano Sonata* best displays Tracy's masterful skill with this instrument.

(Tracy plays 19 instruments. See SilverWoodandIvory.com for other albums.)

Cindy's pianistic interpretations show a sensitivity to keyboard touch and the composer's intent and style. Her arrangements frequently integrate the full range of the 88 keys to reveal the full depth and breadth of possibilities on a grand piano. Her many years as a professional organist and bassoonist deepened her understanding of orchestration, especially for layering various low tones (as with organ pedals) to support melodies and harmonies. Sustained keyboard pads, similar to organ stops and technic, offer that optional layer, an additional dimension to underline or enrich harmonic structures when appropriate. She also performs Celtic harp parts to *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* and *Canon in D* by *Pachelbel*. **Several classical piano solos** are interspersed among their flute/piano arrangements. (Note especially, her deeply moving performance of Scriabin's *Prelude in C# minor* written for left hand alone.)

From the first note to the last, these 24 pieces representing four periods of music (Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Impressionistic) were arranged in a unique playlist order for a delightful hour and 37 minutes of listening. Carefully considered when designing this album were stylistic and mood changes for a program that flows gently and smoothly for either active or background listening.

Silver, Wood & Ivory CLASSICAL is a beautiful instrumental music program which may not only relax the listener physically, but may also add depth and auditory nutrition for the soul.