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VOCAL AND CHORAL

John Corigliano: Mr. Tamborine Man; Vincent Ho: Gryphon Realms - Laura Hynes (amplified soprano); Land's End Ensemble; Karl Hirzer

Written by Andrew Scott | Category: [Vocal and Choral](#) | Published: 06 October 2024

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Laura Hynes (amplified soprano); Land's End Ensemble; Karl Hirzer
Naxos 8.579160 (naxos.com/CatalogueDetail/?id=8.579160)



Among the traits, and there are many, that people find compelling about the current octogenarian and formerly dubbed "voice of his generation," Bob Dylan, are his restless nature and continued creativity. Famously categorizing himself as a "song and dance man," to insert distance between he and his then folk-rock contemporaries and attach himself to a vaudevillian past that he wanted, but truly never had, Dylan has shape shifted so many times that his only constant is change. Long before it was fashionable to see such groups as Lake Street Dive and Scary Pockets reimagining the possibilities of canonic cover versions, Dylan himself was radically reinventing his own songbook, most famously in July 1965 at the Newport Folk Festival. Given the composer's own stance on the malleability of his work, perhaps it is not surprising that Dylan's music has provided creative fodder for musicians not just of the folk/rock ilk, but such jazz players as Nina Simone, Ben Paterson, and Bill Frisell, among others.

Here, with *Mr. Tambourine Man: Seven Poems of Bob Dylan (version for amplified soprano and sextet)*, the highly feted American composer John Corigliano brings Dylan's poetic lyrics into the realm of contemporary classical music, setting seven texts to his unique original music with compelling results. Acknowledging in the liner notes the newness of this exercise, (as Dylan's words had not previously been set to classical music), while locating the historical antecedents of Schumann or Brahms working with a Goethe text. Corigliano's reimagining has been beautifully realized here by soprano Laura Hynes and Calgary's Land's End Ensemble under Karl Hirzer. Corigliano's cycle is paired effectively with Canadian composer Vincent Ho's *Gryphon Realms (for piano trio)* commissioned by Toronto's Gryphon Trio inspired by that mythical tripartite beast. It is performed here by the core members of Land's End, violinist Maria van der Sloot, cellist Beth Root Sandvoss and pianist Susanne Ruberg-Gordon. This 2024 Naxos release is highly enjoyable and immensely satisfying.

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