



*"The ARC Ensemble have prepared this unfamiliar repertoire with care and a feeling for its beauties. I enjoyed Erika Raum's sweet tone in the brief Second Violin Sonata and her quicksilver repartee with pianist Kevin Ahfat in Kaufmann's sudden turns of thought [...] Chandos and the ARC Ensemble would do everyone a favour by producing a second volume."*

*Peter Quantrill, Gramophone*

*"The ARC Ensemble performs these premiere recordings with daring and verve, doing great justice to Kaufmann's intriguingly idiosyncratic style."*

*Zev Kane, WQXR*

## Rave Reviews for New Recording by ARC Ensemble

### *Chamber Works by Walter Kaufmann* Garners International Acclaim

This collection of extraordinary works by Walter Kaufmann, a unique blend of Indian and Western musical traditions, exquisitely performed by The ARC Ensemble (Artists of The Royal Conservatory), was released on August 28, 2020 to international acclaim.

*Chamber Works by Walter Kaufmann*, the first devoted to this 20th century composer's works, is ARC's seventh recording, three of which have been nominated for Grammy Awards. As a Jewish composer under imminent threat from the Nazis, Kaufmann fled Prague in 1934 and spent the next 12 years in Bombay where he worked for All India Radio and studied Indian music. The works he composed while there have remained unperformed for over 80 years.

*"This fearlessly individualistic album features string quartets as well as pieces for smaller and larger ensembles (Kaufmann also wrote symphonies and operatic works), all composed during Kaufmann's time in India. The first work here, played by violinists Erika Raum and Marie Bérard, violist Steven Dann and cellist Thomas Wiebe, is the String Quartet No. 11. It's like nothing you've ever heard before. A somber cello drone anchors an enigmatic, whole-tone-centric raga melody that the quartet take dancing in the brief, five-minute opening movement."*

*delarue, New York Music Daily*

*"The discovery of the year. And, except for those who detest Indian idioms, unbeatable." ★★★★★*

*Christophe Huss, Le Devoir*

*"It's particularly striking how immediate, fresh and new Kaufmann's 80-plus-year-old music is in this significant contribution to the chamber music discography; it's a celebration of the arresting artistry of a composer Winnipeg once proudly, if briefly, hailed as one of its own." ★★★★★*

*Holly Harris, Winnipeg Free Press*

*"[...] the works on this disc bring his exquisitely unique musical voice to life with uncommon drama and emotion. A feeling of loss and nostalgia characterizes much of this music, often evoked by the haunting and transcendent classical Indian modalities [...] This is a remarkable recording."*

*Raul da Gama, World Music Report*

*"All the Chamber Works by Walter Kaufmann (Chandos), performed by the ARC Ensemble, part of its Music in Exile series, are world premiere recordings of pieces composed during his time in India. Their strongly Czech accent, tuneful and melancholic, dominates, with sudden darts into raga mood. Kaufmann's music, nuanced and unexpected, deserves to be heard."*

*Fiona Maddocks, The Guardian*

*"These are substantial works, in which plaintive solemnity alternates with emphatic, syncopated dances, all heavily imbued with Indian modal, melodic and rhythmic sequences. I found this engrossing mix of European and Asian traditions richly rewarding and hope that this superb CD will inspire more recordings of Kaufmann's music. I'd love to hear them."*

*Michael Schulman, The Whole Note*



The Royal Conservatory's ARC Ensemble is among Canada's most distinguished cultural ambassadors. Performing a wide range of music, its focus remains the research and recovery of music suppressed and marginalized under the 20th century's repressive regimes. A growing number of hitherto unknown masterworks are rejoining the repertoire as a result of the Ensemble's work.