



## Victoria Samek – Selected Press Quotes & Discography

*'Most sheerly seductive record of the year.'* **The Sunday Times.**

*'... Victoria Soames Samek whose sumptuous sound is a feast in this age of blandness.'* **The Daily Telegraph**

*'Victoria Soames Samek has a beautifully rounded tone, a sensitive feeling for style and seemingly effortless technique.'* **Musical Times**

*'Victoria Soames Samek projected the personality of the bass clarinet and Thea Musgrave's music with technical mastery and glowing musicianship.'*

**Musical Opinion**

*'All five pieces are better than interesting and one wants a better word than 'enterprising' (which so often means a good try...) for The Mühfeld Trio's remarkable success rate in their commissioning. The recording is first class.'* **Gramophone**

*'Three important works of the British composer Thea Musgrave are usefully gathered on this disc under the composer's baton. Victoria Soames Samek is a sympathetic advocate of the concertos, rising impressively to the demands.'* **The Times**

*'Performances are as attuned to Musgrave's idiom as one would expect from Soames Samek...this is a disc that listeners and performers alike should investigate.'* **Gramophone**

*'Narcissus would be worth queuing for. Musgrave excels in musical drama.'* **BBC Music Magazine.**

*'Soames Samek plays all the works with a virtuosity, finesse, and full attractive tone.'* **Fanfare**

*'Soames Samek...in a personal booklet-note admits that revealing the 'intimate nature of the music' was her own special aim. This is apparent throughout in her tonal mellowness...'*

**Gramophone**

*'The latest disc from an attractive label is celebration of clarinet music written in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century...John Ireland's Fantasy Sonata, a suave, wistful single movement... beautifully played.'* **Sunday Times**

Victoria Soames Samek, admirable curator of the whole of the Clarinet & saxophone Classics label offers playing to admire; technically infallible, sober and beautifully controlled. Michael Bell is her most able partner. **International Record Review**

*Bennett effortlessly fuses strands of serialism, jazz, Stravinskian wit and (in the case of the beautiful clarinet quintet) shades of English pastoral. Expertly performed and beautifully recorded* **'Classical Music:**

*'The commitment and quality of the playing is at once apparent; Victoria Soames Samek and Michael Bell are a formidable duo'.* **International Record Review.**

*Soames Samek on tenor sax being partnered by incisive soprano, creamy alto and unexpectedly agile baritone. Like everything else here, the work (Horowitz Variations on a Theme of Paganini) is a delight from first to last.* **International Record Review**

*Victoria Soames Samek is recognised as an outstanding clarinettist and champion of contemporary music....She weaves sustained phrases with a clear supple tone, moving gracefully through the work's (Paul Harris – Adagio), wide range and delicate altissimo register.* **The Clarinet**

### **The East Winds blow in with a delightful Arnold selection**

*East Winds, made up of talented young players, here give brilliant performances which consistently bring out the wit of the writing. Already the virtuosity of the writing is astonishing, displaying Arnold's great gift of complex counterpoint which is immediately accessible. East Winds time these charming pieces perfectly, with tiny hesitations in exactly the right places to heighten the wit.* **Gramophone,**

*Sir Malcolm Arnold has always been an enthusiastic composer of wind music. East Winds, made up of talented young wind-players, here give brilliant performances which consistently bring out the wit of the writing. This is a well-chosen and wide-ranging selection of works which make up a delightful sequence. East Winds bring out the fun delectably.*

### **Penguin Guide**

*'Victoria Soames Samek's energy as a curator of Clarinet Classics continues to impress.'* **International Record Review**

*'The Clarinet world owes her its gratitude.'* **The American Record Guide**

**Victoria Soames Samek**  
**Bb, Eb & bass clarinets; Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Saxophones**  
**Discography**

- **Aaron Copland & 'Les Six' CC0001** (1992) including Copland Sonata & works by Poulenc, Honegger, Tailleferre & Milhaud. Julius Drake piano.
- **New Music for Clarinet CC0007** (1994) including clarinet, cello & piano trios by Lutyens, Powers, Lefanu, Marsh & Williams. The Mühlfeld Trio
- **Solos de Concours CC0011** (1995) Including works by Debussy, Marty, Françaix and Hahn. Jonathan Higgins piano.
- **Brahms Music for Clarinet CC0016** (1997) Sonatas No.1 & No.2 Op. 120 & Trio in A minor Op.114. James Potter cello, Jonathan Higgins piano.
- **The English Romantics CC0023** (1998) Including works by Hurlstone, Lloyd and Howells. Laurence Perkins bassoon, John Flinders piano.
- **On the Winds of English Melody CC0025** (1999) including work by Stanford, Ireland, Finzi & Bliss. John Flinders piano.
- **Gems of The Clarinet CC0027** (1993) 2 CD Set Including works by Weber, Baermann, Mozart, Spohr, Mendelssohn. Julius Drake/Jennifer Purvis piano, Elizabeth Ritchie soprano, Roger Heaton basset horn, The Duke String Quartet
- **Times for Flying CC0032** (2001) including works by CPE Bach, Lefèvre, Poulenc, Cavalini & Schuller. Colin Lawson clarinet/basset-horn
- **Thea Musgrave Clarinet & Bass Clarinet Concertos CC0035** (1996) BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under direction of the composer
- **Chamber Music for Clarinet by Thea Musgrave Vol. 1 CC0038** (2002) including Chamber Concerto No.2, Threnody &, Pierrot Dreaming. Mark Troop piano, Matthew Sharp cello Musicians from English Serenata
- **Chamber Music for Clarinet by Thea Musgrave Vol. 2 CC0039** (2002) including Narcissus, Wind Quintet & Four Portraits. Mark Troop piano, Stephen Varcoe baritone, David le Page violin, Matthew Sharp cello, Rachel Masters harp, members of English Serenata
- **Solos de Concours II CC0050** (2005) 2 CD Set including works by Widor, Delmas, Leuvre plus sight-reading pieces from the Premiere Prix by Debussy, Massenet & others. John Flinders, piano PREMIERE RECORDINGS
- **Sir Malcolm Arnold Wind Chamber Music** (Recorded for Naxos 2007) including Three Shanties, Wind Quintet, Divertimento, Hobson's Choice: Overture. East Winds
- **Semplice – From Beautiful beginnings CC0053** (2008) including works by Gade, Schumann, Debussy, Bartok, Warlock, Ravel & Ferguson. Tim Watts piano
- **Richard Rodney Bennett - Clarinet Chamber Music CC0062** (2011) including Duo Concertante, Sonata for bass clarinet & piano, Travel Notes, Clarinet Quintet. Michael Bell piano, Inspirity String Quartet, East Winds
- **Clarinet Chamber Music by Paul Harris CC0064** (2012) including Sonatina, Visions, Trio, The Unhappy Aardvark, 6 Clerihew Songs. Michael Bell piano, Robert Hardy narrator, Karen Radcliffe soprano, East Winds
- **Joseph Horowitz: Complete Chamber Music for clarinet CC0060** (2014) including Sonatina, Two Majorcan Pieces, Concertino Schubert/Horowitz, Jazz Suite. Michael Bell, piano, Bingham String Quartet & ReedPlay.
- **Ring! Music for Clarinet & Saxophone by Rob Keeley CC0070** (2017) including Music for Art and Tom, Fanfariations, Sonata Macabre, Misterioso and Ring! Michael Bell, piano, Chris Brannick, percussion, Villiers String Quartet, ReedPlay, East Winds