

Sometimes, it's all in the title. Vibrations are the essence of music and sound, the physical reality that causes the air to reach our ears in an interesting manner. In a way, this name could apply to any ensemble, but in this case it is a well-considered choice. The reason for this is in the title of their first album: *Strange Meeting*. On this disc, seven flutists join forces in a wide range of musical universes. They come together with sometimes very different backgrounds and aesthetic preferences, but they seem to find a common ground, common vibrations.

A quick look at the playlist could easily confuse the listener. Rather unknown composers are presented alongside with baroque and contemporary composers. Did I mention that this album also includes traditional melodies and arrangements? Strange meetings indeed, one could argue, but there is something that holds the pieces together. These seven flutists are continuously looking for one very rich and mobile sound, a flexible amalgam of the vibrations their instruments are causing. There are several moments where you forget that this is a recording with all flutes. You rather get the impression of an elaborate sound machine with lots of different colours and sonorities. Rhythmic precision and impeccable intonation run through this odd collection of pieces, which are all treated with authenticity and respect. Of course, there is a difference between the sound world of Jean-Luc Fauchamps and Dietrich Buxtehude, but the ensemble seems to be flexible enough to approach both composers with the same flair and enthusiasm.

This flexibility enables the musicians to tackle very diverse styles of playing in the last few tracks of the album, ranging from invigorating folk dances to samba rhythms, and even including some sung words. *Strange meeting* is a fresh and above all surprising album, showing off the seemingly endless possibilities of an all-flute ensemble.

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