

Opus Two

William Terwilliger, violin
Andrew Cooperstock, piano

Opus Two has been internationally recognized for its “divine phrases, impelling rhythm, elastic ensemble and stunning sounds,” as well as its commitment to expanding the violin-piano duo repertoire. The award-winning duo, comprised of violinist William Terwilliger and pianist Andrew Cooperstock, has been hailed for its “unanimity of style and spirit, exemplary balance and close rapport.”

Opus Two first came to international spotlight as winners of the United States Information Agency’s Artistic Ambassador Auditions in 1993 and has since performed in most of the 50 states and across six continents. Their US engagements include performances at Carnegie Hall, where they performed Haydn’s *Double Concerto for Violin and Piano*, Merkin Hall, and a standing-room-only recital at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center. State Department associations have taken them to Japan, Korea, Russia, Ukraine, Germany, France, Switzerland, Peru, Ghana, Australia, and Latin America. The duo has presented master classes world-wide at prestigious institutions such as New York’s Juilliard School, Beijing’s Central Conservatory, and Kiev’s Glieria Conservatory.

Opus Two's Naxos debut recording *Leonard Bernstein: Violin Sonata; Piano Trio; New Transcriptions* features the world premiere of *Four Moments from Candide* with new arrangements by Broadway conductor/arranger Eric Stern. Acclaimed as "an excellent recording, performed splendidly throughout," the disc includes the duo's own transcriptions of Bernstein's *Clarinet Sonata*. Opus Two's recording *Gershwin: Music for Violin and Piano* features selections from *Porgy and Bess*, Gershwin's original *Short Story*, Jascha Heifetz's arrangements of *An American in Paris* and *Three Piano Preludes*, and newly commissioned arrangements by Stern of selections from Gershwin's musical *Girl Crazy*, as well as songs from the Gershwin Songbook. *American Record Guide* called it an “excellent recording.” Opus Two's discography includes a critically acclaimed series of recordings of American composers' music including discs dedicated to works by Robert Starer, Paul Schoenfield and Lowell Liebermann. The Duo's recording of Aaron Copland's music features world premiere recordings including two early, unpublished preludes.

The Strad praised the ensemble's debut performance at London's St. John's, Smith Square as “beautifully drawn, brilliantly coloured and intense,” remarking that “violinist William Terwilliger played with supreme tenderness and finely judged control and was partnered with

assurance and sensitivity by Andrew Cooperstock." *The Boston Musical Intelligencer* called Opus Two's performance at Woodstock, New York's venerable Maverick Concerts, the oldest such music festival in the country, "one of the most significant and worthwhile concerts of the season." Highlights of recent seasons include a return to Hong Kong, where the Duo performed recitals and presented master classes at Hong Kong Baptist University, and China's Guangxi Arts University, two twenty-city US tours across eleven states; performances with the Boulder Chamber Orchestra; and a European tour, which featured the duo in recital and as concerto soloists in Nice, Monaco, Bern, Geneva, and the Czech Republic as invited guests of the US Ambassadors to Switzerland and the United Nations. Last season the Duo commissioned Columbia, South Carolina composer Meira Warshauer to create *Carolina Gallery*, a musical triptych inspired by works of local artists which they performed in the galleries of the Columbia Museum of Art. 2019-2020 highlights include the Steinway Series at Silo Hill, Friday's Musicale, the Rock Hill Symphony Orchestra, The American String Teachers Association National Conference, the Music Teachers National Association National Conference, and Opus Two's return to New York's 54 Below, where they will debut a program in celebration of Stephen Sondheim's 90th birthday with new arrangements by Eric Stern.

In addition to their concerts as Opus Two, William Terwilliger and Andrew Cooperstock regularly join forces with Martha MacDonald as members of Trio Contraste. The trio has been honored with the Centennial Chamber Music Award for Outstanding Promotion of American Music from the National Federation of Music Clubs. Additionally, William Terwilliger and Andrew Cooperstock have collaborated together or individually with members of the Takács, Emerson, and Juilliard String Quartets, and the Dorian Wind Quintet, violinists Oleh Krysa and James Buswell, and cellists Lynn Harrell, Allison Eldredge, and Yehuda Hanani.

Andrew Cooperstock, a graduate of the Juilliard School and the Peabody and Cincinnati Conservatories is Professor of Piano at the University of Colorado at Boulder and Program Director at Saarburg International Music Festival in Germany. A graduate of Eastman School of Music, William Terwilliger is Professor of Violin at the University of South Carolina and concertmaster of the Long Bay and Rock Hill Symphony Orchestras.

The list of awards received by Opus Two include grants from the American Music Center, Chamber Music America, the National Federation of Music Clubs, and the Arts International Fund, to name a few.

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