

WORTH REPEATING



Lothar Klein - The Philosopher in the Kitchen and other vocal works
Maureen Forrester;
Roxolana Roslak; Joel Katz;
Orville White; Monica Whicher
(Independent) RDRCD 7780

This excellent anthology of the vocal music of the Toronto composer and educator Lothar Klein spans five decades and employs as many languages.

Maureen Forrester is at the top of her game in the delightful title track, *The Philosopher in the Kitchen*. The bilingual text, in French and English, is derived from thought-provoking culinary essays by the legendary gourmet Brillat Savarin. A live performance from 1975 with Boris Brott leading the short-lived CBC Summer Festival Orchestra, it is a must-have for any fan of this great singer.

Soprano Roxolana Roslak joins pianist William Aide in a sensitive performance of Klein's 1975 Emily Brontë settings, *Three Melancholy Songs*. For those who enjoy cock and bull stories, there's Hemingway, in the form of six key passages from *The Old Man and the Sea*. The late American baritone Orville White contributes a magisterial reading of the work, though the 1965 era sound quality leaves something to be desired.

Coruscating percussion and exotically tuned harps form the backdrop

for Joel Katz's fine performance of the Holocaust "memorial meditations", *Hachava*. A companion piece, the remarkable *Harmonic Symphonies of Celestial Revelation*, features soprano Monica Whicher and violist Max Mandel. Part viola concerto and part song cycle, it is a sometimes thorny, involved work which rewards the listener with a sublime apotheosis.

Daniel Foley