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ONGAKU RECORDS RELEASES “*Jonathan Cohler & Claremont Trio*” CD

BOSTON January 15, 2009 — [Ongaku Records](http://ongaku-records.com/) announced the release of *Jonathan Cohler & Claremont Trio* (024-122), a CD featuring world renowned clarinetist Jonathan Cohler and the acclaimed *Claremont Trio*. The new release includes **Beethoven** *Trio in B-flat Major, Op. 11*, **Brahms** *Trio in A Minor, Op. 114*, and the rarely recorded **Dohnányi** *Sextet in C Major, Op. 37*. Cohler and the Claremonts are joined by Boston Symphony Orchestra principal hornist James Sommerville and Borromeo Quartet violist Mai Motobuchi in the Dohnányi.

The recordings of the Beethoven and Brahms have already been acclaimed by *Fanfare Magazine* as the best of the best.

“...the recording is ideal...and the playing is uniformly lovely... I know of no finer recording of the Beethoven, and this one stands with the best classic versions of the Brahms.”

The CD features the award-winning engineering of Brad Michel, and it was recorded in the beautiful acoustics of the Rogers Center for the Arts at Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts. Accompanying the CD is an in-depth 20-page booklet that gives a full and detailed explanation of the history behind these works. These detailed historical notes have become a hallmark of Ongaku Records releases that sets them apart from other recordings. This recording was produced using the latest in 24-bit digital recording technology, and was edited and mastered throughout in 24-bits to preserve the pristine audiophile quality sound for which Ongaku Records has become known.

[Jonathan Cohler](#) is recognized throughout the world as “an absolute master of the clarinet” (International Clarinet Association’s *Clarinet Magazine*). Through his performances around the world and on record, he has thrilled an ever-widening audience with his incredible musicianship and total technical command. His technical feats have been hailed as “superhuman” and *Fanfare Magazine* has placed him in the pantheon of legendary musicians: “one thinks of Dinu Lipatti.”

A highly acclaimed recording artist, his recordings have received numerous accolades and awards including nomination for the **INDIE Award**, the **Outstanding Recording** mark of the *American Record Guide*, *BBC Music Magazine*’s **Best CDs of The Year** selection, and top ratings from many magazines and record guides including *Penguin Guide*, *BBC Music Magazine*, and *Listener Magazine*, which wrote, “Cohler possesses such musical integrity and taste that everything he touches seems like the last word”. *Gramophone* lauded Mr. Cohler’s expression of “the poetry that lesser artists miss.”

He has toured the United States, Canada, Europe, Japan, Taiwan, China, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Mexico and Cuba, and performed at many festivals including those of Tanglewood, Aspen, Domaine Forget, Campos do Jordao, Rockport, Newport, Martha’s Vineyard and the Hamptons. He has been a frequently invited performer at the International Clarinet Association’s annual ClarinetFest and many other clarinet festivals around the world. He has been featured on the prestigious Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series in Chicago.

In addition to his work as soloist, Jonathan Cohler is an active chamber musician, chamber music coach, adjudicator, conductor, and pedagogue. He collaborates frequently with many well-known musicians and ensembles including members of the Emerson String Quartet, the Muir String Quartet, the Claremont Trio, the Lark Quartet, the Moscow Conservatory Trio, the Amadeus Trio, the New Jersey Chamber Music Society, the Boston Chamber Music Society, the Wavehill Trio, Boris Berezovsky, Ilya Kaler,

continued

Andres Diaz, Charles Neidich, Randall Hodgkinson, Judith Gordon, Andrew Mark, Janice Weber and Rasa Vitkauskaitė.

Mr. Cohler is a member of the clarinet, chamber music and conducting faculties of the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, The Boston Conservatory, and the New England Conservatory in Boston. Jonathan Cohler is a Vandoren, Rossi, and Gao artist. For more information, see his web site at <http://jonathancohler.com/>.

Widely regarded as the premier piano trio of its generation, the [Claremont Trio](#) is sought after for its thrillingly virtuosic and richly communicative performances. First winners of the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson International Trio Award and the only piano trio ever to win the Young Concert Artists International Auditions, the Claremonts are consistently lauded for their "aesthetic maturity, interpretive depth, and exuberance" (Palm Beach Daily News).

Now celebrating their 10th anniversary season, the trio returns to New York's Carnegie Hall and Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center, and appears in more than 60 halls throughout the country. Their extensive countrywide tour encompasses major venues in Washington D.C., Boston, Seattle, Phoenix, Anchorage, Syracuse, Columbus, and Puerto Rico as well as universities including Duke, Kansas State and SUNY Purchase. In recent seasons, the Trio has toured throughout the United States in its major concert halls and on the series of prestigious chamber music societies. They have performed at Avery Fisher Hall and Alice Tully Hall in New York's Lincoln Center; the UCLA Center for the Performing Arts; Stanford Lively Arts; the La Jolla Music Society; the Performing Arts Center at SUNY Purchase; the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts; Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum; and Wolf Trap. They have been featured guests of the chamber music societies of Detroit, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Louisville, and San Antonio. During summers, the Claremont Trio has appeared at the Caramoor, Ravinia, Norfolk, Moab, Cape Cod Chamber Music, Saratoga, Mostly Mozart, Bard, Rockport, Hamptons and Great Lakes festivals.

Highly regarded recording artists, the Claremont Trio released their debut CD of Mendelssohn trios on the Arabesque label in 2004 to overwhelming critical acclaim. Gramophone praised their "large-scale performances with a sweeping, romantic sense of space and strong dramatic contrasts." The group's second disc of Shostakovich and Arensky trios was released on Tria Records in 2006, and in 2008, they released American Trios, also on Tria, and this CD on Ongaku Records.

The Claremont Trio collaborates often with distinguished guest artists including Toby Appel, Joseph Kalichstein, Martha Katz, Jaime Laredo, Ida Kavafian, Nokuthula Ngwenyama, Sharon Robinson, and Richard Young.

In recent years, the Claremonts have led master classes at the Eastman School of Music, Boston Conservatory, Purchase College at SUNY, Middlebury College, University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh, Longy School of Music, and Gettysburg College's Sunderman Conservatory.

Twin sisters Emily Bruskin (violin) and Julia Bruskin (cello) formed the Trio with Donna Kwong (piano) in 1999 at The Juilliard School. The Claremonts are based in New York City near their namesake: Claremont Avenue. For more information about the Claremont Trio and to read their blog, please visit <http://www.claremonttrio.com/>.

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