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**“COHLER plays and conducts WEBER” CD features  
Clarinetist Jonathan Cohler and Pianist Rasa Vitkauskaite  
with the Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra**

**Boston, MA** — [Ongaku Records, Inc.](#) released [Cohler plays and conducts Weber](#) (024-126) featuring renowned clarinetist and conductor Jonathan Cohler and including Carl Maria von Weber’s works for clarinet and orchestra along with his two most famous opera overtures and one of his most representative piano works.

This recording is the first to utilize the most recent research to bring you the music as intended by Weber. In tour de force performances, virtuoso clarinetist and conductor Jonathan Cohler plays and conducts the *Concertino* and two *Concertos* by Weber with the renowned Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra of Budapest, Hungary. Cohler also conducts revelatory performances of the overtures to Weber’s two most famous operas, *Der Freischütz* and *Oberon*, based on the composer’s autograph scores, as no previous recording has done. The CD also features the brilliant, multiple-award-winning Lithuanian pianist Rasa Vitkauskaite performing Franz Liszt’s rendition of Weber’s *Polonaise brillante*.

Early reviews have been amazing. Michael Drapkin (renowned author of the seminal *Symphonic Repertoire for the Bass Clarinet*) wrote,

“Every generation has its clarinet soloist—Stadler, Baermann, De Peyer, Stoltzman, etc. In our time, that person is Jonathan Cohler. His body of recorded clarinet music is nothing short of breathtaking—all gorgeous soloistic playing. Plus he is a fine conductor. If he was also a composer, we’d be comparing him to Leonard Bernstein.”

World famous clarinet soloist, teacher, and instrument maker Luis Rossi remarked:

“Both as conductor and soloist, Cohler achieves the highest level of excellence here. Cohler’s pure tone, perfect intonation, impeccable virtuosity, and brilliant musicality, combined with his consistent dedication to bringing the most recent research to light (28-page booklet included!), make this CD a must-have for all clarinetists and Weber lovers in general!”

To set the performance record straight vis-à-vis the often performed, but non-authoritative, Carl Bärmann editions of the works, Cohler plays from the original Weber sources, and has written entirely new cadenzas and ornamentation according to the style and practice of Weber.

To round out this groundbreaking offering, Cohler and Vitkauskaite have written a 28-page, in-depth booklet that explains the story behind these works as well as all of the latest information regarding sources. Recorded at the Hungarian National Radio, this CD features Ongaku Records’ trademark audiophile sound quality, which provides the listener with stunning detail, dynamic range, and accurate sound stage. This CD is an essential reference for all clarinetists and indeed for anyone interested in the music of Weber.

*Cohler plays and conducts Weber* is available for sale at [Amazon](#), [CD Baby](#), [iTunes](#), [Google Play](#), [Apple Music](#), [Ongaku Records](#) and many other quality outlets worldwide.

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**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 magazines, radio stations, and record guides worldwide including *Penguin Guide*, *BBC Music Magazine*, [MusicWeb International](#), 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.”

In recent years, Mr. Cohler has teamed up with multiple-award-winning Lithuanian pianist [Rasa Vitkauskaite](#) to form today’s leading clarinet-piano duo, which is featured in his three most recent recordings: *American Tribute*, *Romanza*, and *Rhapsodie Française*. Another recent CD, *Jonathan Cohler & Claremont Trio*, features the award winning [Claremont Trio](#).

*Fanfare Magazine* hailed his newest CD *American Tribute* as, “one of the best clarinet CDs to come along in some time” and they ranked his recording of the Brahms and Beethoven trios (*Jonathan Cohler & Claremont Trio*) the all-time best: “I know of no finer recording of the Beethoven, and this one stands with the best classic versions of the Brahms.” *Rhapsodie Française* was chosen as **Best of the Year** by the Buffalo/Toronto classical station 94.5 WNED alongside two CDs featuring legendary artists Pierre Fournier, Mstislav Rostropovitch, Leonid Kogan, and Emil Gilels.

For more information, see his complete bio at <http://jonathancohler.com/Bio>

Hailed for “artistry of poetic and observant sensitivity” (*Gramophone*), internationally acclaimed pianist **Rasa Vitkauskaite** released her debut solo CD *Reflections* on Ongaku Records in 2014, featuring works by Beethoven, Ravel, Guastavino and Liebermann. *Fanfare Magazine* highlighted the release on its cover, praising her “scintillating pianism” and dubbing her “a Beethoven interpreter of penetrating insight.”

For more information, see her complete bio at <http://rasavitkauskaite.com/bio.html>

The **Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra** was founded in 1963 by former students of the Franz Liszt Music Academy in Budapest. Over the last half of a century, the orchestra has built an outstanding international reputation with concerts in more than 50 countries, including Carnegie Hall in New York, Sydney Opera House, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Théâtre de la Ville in Paris, and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. The orchestra regularly performs throughout Europe including the festivals of Ascona, Besançon, Edinburgh, Flandria, Helsinki, Luzern, Montreux, Prades, Salzburg, Santander, Moritzburg, and Menton. They have also performed several times in the United States, Japan, India, China, and South America (including highly successful concerts in Buenos Aires and Sao Paulo).

For more information, see <http://www.lfkz.hu/en/about-us/the-orchestra>

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