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**“COHLER plays and conducts MOZART” CD features
Clarinetist, Conductor Jonathan Cohler with the Anima Musicae Chamber Orchestra**

Boston, MA — Ongaku Records, Inc. released [*Cohler plays and conducts Mozart*](#) (024-128) featuring virtuoso clarinetist and conductor Jonathan Cohler with the Anima Musicae Chamber Orchestra in the second of the “Cohler plays and conducts” series including a selection of the greatest works by Mozart from his last 10 years: *Clarinet Concerto, KV 622* played on basset clarinet in original style; *Symphony No. 35 in D Major, KV 385 “Haffner”*; and the overtures to *Don Giovanni, KV 527* and *The Magic Flute, KV 620*. All are performed from brand new editions edited by Cohler. The new edition of the *Clarinet Concerto* is the first major new edition since the 1977 Bärenreiter, and it makes numerous enhancements, revisions, and corrections to the score based on the latest historical source and performance practice information. Cohler performs on the new Royal Global basset clarinet that he helped to design, and this is the debut recording of that new instrument. In tour de force performances, virtuoso clarinetist and conductor Jonathan Cohler and Anima Musicae have raised the bar for Mozart performance. *Fanfare Magazine* reviewer Bertil van Boer writes,

“Cohler’s playing is immaculate. The soft, pensive, and languid second movement is suitably fluid without sentimentality, the clarinet line appearing as a *primus inter pares* with the orchestra rather than overt soloist. The finale is performed as a light and airy dance, just the way Mozart probably would have loved it... In a world awash in music by Mozart, and each of the pieces chosen for this disc have multiple examples of various interpretations, this disc stands out as filled with energy and excellent interpretations... a full hour of wonderful Mozartean pleasure... **5 Stars: energetic and finely crafted performances; Jonathan Cohler and his group present excellent interpretations that should be the standard for Mozart**”

As he did in *Cohler plays and conducts Weber*, the first CD of this series, Cohler sets the record straight vis-à-vis the often performed, error-ridden, non-authoritative, old editions of the works by going back to the available sources, and filling out the scores with bowings, fingerings, and period-appropriate ornamentation throughout. To round out this groundbreaking offering, he provides a well sourced 28-page, in-depth booklet that explains the story behind these works. The CD features Ongaku Records’ trademark audiophile sound quality, which provides the listener with stunning detail, dynamic range, and accurate sound stage, and is an essential reference for anyone interested in the music of Mozart.

Cohler plays and conducts Mozart is available for sale at Amazon, iTunes, Google Play, Apple Music, YouTube Music, Tidal, Napster, Ongaku Records, and retailers worldwide.

Jonathan Cohler is recognized as the preeminent, most-recorded clarinet soloist of our time. Through his performances around the world and on record, he has thrilled an ever widening audience with his musicianship and total technical command, which *American Record Guide* hailed as “superhuman.” *Fanfare Magazine* placed him in the pantheon of legendary musicians—“one thinks of Dinu Lipatti”—and Gramophone lauded his “poetry that lesser artists miss.”

As both clarinetist and conductor, he has received numerous resounding accolades and awards including 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

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worldwide. This CD is the second in a series inaugurated by *Cohler plays and conducts Weber* with the renowned Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra that *Fanfare Magazine* featured on its cover and praised Cohler's "extraordinary musical intelligence and technical wizardry" while dubbing his performances as "supernatural." Mr. Cohler and multiple-award-winning Lithuanian pianist Rasa Vitkauskaitė form today's leading clarinet-piano duo, which is featured on recent recordings *American Tribute*, *Romanza*, and *Rhapsodie Française*.

Mr. Cohler maintains a busy international schedule with performances that regularly take him around the world, most recently to cities in the United States, Belgium, Hungary, Canada, Italy, Spain, Poland, Japan, Taiwan, China, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Mexico and Cuba. He collaborates frequently with many well-known musicians and ensembles including Ilya Kaler, James Buswell, members of the Emerson Quartet, Muir String Quartet, Claremont Trio, Arianna String Quartet, Lark Quartet, Moscow Conservatory Trio, Halcyon Chamber Music Festival, Boris Berezovsky, Andres Diaz, Charles Neidich, Randall Hodgkinson, Judith Gordon, Andrew Mark, and Janice Weber.

Mr. Cohler is the Music Director of the Massachusetts Philharmonic Orchestra; Founder and Director of the International Woodwind Festival, Boston Clarinet Academy, and Chamber Music Boston; Vice President of the Boston Woodwind Society; and the Massachusetts State Chair of the International Clarinet Association. He is also in demand as a guest conductor around the world with orchestras such as the Simon Bolivar Orchestra of Venezuela.

Mr. Cohler's clarinet teachers include legendary Boston Symphony Orchestra clarinetist Pasquale Cardillo, Harold Wright, Karl Leister, Charles Neidich and Frank Martin. He is Professor of Clarinet, Conducting, and Chamber Music at the Longy School of Music of Bard College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and has been guest faculty at conservatories and universities around the world such as Mozarteum University in Salzburg, Eastman School of Music, Cleveland Institute of Music, and Harvard University to name a few. He is a Vandoren, Silverstein, Rossi, and Royal Global artist, and records exclusively for Ongaku Records.

For more information, see his web site at jonathancohler.com or his Facebook page at [facebook.com/J.Cohler](https://www.facebook.com/J.Cohler) which is the #1 classical clarinet Facebook page in the world.

Anima Musicae Chamber Orchestra is one of the most dynamic, prize-winning young ensembles in the world today performing throughout Europe in prominent venues such as the Gewandhaus in Leipzig, the Musikverein in Vienna, the Berlin Philharmonie, the Palace of Arts and the Marble Hall in Hungary, and the Teatro Verdi in Italy. AMCO has been a regular guest at the Budapest Spring Festival, resident orchestra of the Festival Academy Budapest, the International Kodály Seminar, the Guitar Art Festival in Belgrade, the NOMUS in Novi Sad, the Pécs Summer Academy, and at the "I grandi interpreti della Musica 2013" concert series in Sassari, Italy. The orchestra has collaborated with such esteemed musicians as Jonathan Cohler, Sir James Galway, David Grimal, Giovanni Guzzo, Bálint Karosi, Rita Kinka, Katalin Kokas, Anastasia Razvalyaeva, Gustav Rivinius, Ditta Rohmann, Imre Rohmann, János Rolla, Alexander Sitkovetsky, Gyula Stuller, the Ulucan Siblings, Kirill Troussov, Tamás Vásáry and Andrea Vigh.

This CD features some of Mozart's greatest works and marks the orchestra's fourth commercial recording following three critically acclaimed releases on Hungaroton: *String Serenades, Vol. 2: Suk & Dvorák* (2020), *String Serenades, Vol. 1: Dohnányi & Tchaikovsky* (2019), and *Mozart: Divertimenti & Eine kleine Nachtmusik* (2015). Anima Musicae has received numerous awards including a top prize at the Torneo Internazionale di Musica in Paris (2014); the Junior Prima Prize by Hungary's Prima Primmissima Foundation (2012); 1st prize at the 5th Summa Cum Laude International Youth Music Festival, held in the Golden Hall of the Musikverein in Vienna (2011). AMCO is also a champion of contemporary Hungarian compositions, and many such works have not only been dedicated to the orchestra but have become part of the ensemble's core repertoire.