



I.C.E. on fire review

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News reviews

ICE CD is hot stuff

**I.C.E. on fire:
Innovation Chamber
Ensemble**

AT a time of war and death in the Iraq conflict, what should come along but a recording of Samuel Barber's Adagio, the national music of mourning in America.

The work is startlingly moving, whatever the context.

Here it is played by the Innovation Chamber Ensemble, formed from the Strings of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and you would be hard pressed to find a finer recording.

Led by the flamboyant cellist Richard Jenkinson, and recorded live at the CBSO Centre in Birmingham, ICE bring to this CD a vitality which brims with excitement and impeccable playing.

From the opening bars of Mozart's Divertimento No 2, this is a disc that demands to be heard.

From there we move to Elgar's Serenade, then Boccherini's wonderful Cello Concerto No 3 before moving into the modern era with the UK premiere recording of Robert Farnon's Song of Scandia.

Barber's Adagio follows before we finish with the world premiere of Paul da Vinci's Concerto for Cello and Strings, Hope.

Inspired by the Irish peace process it, too, can apply to the present conflict. Inspiring indeed. RC