

**ZOLA SHAULIS**  
**Naumburg Piano Award Prize Winner, 1971**

**SAMUEL BARBER**  
**EXCURSIONS, Op. 20**

**LOUIS GRUENBERG**  
**POLYCHROMATICS**

**ERNEST BLOCH**  
**SONATA**  
**1. Maestoso ed energico**  
**2. Pastorale**  
**3. Moderato alla marcia**

ZOLA SHAULIS began playing the piano at the age of three. At the age of seven she made an astonishing debut performance with the Philadelphia Orchestra. The youngest soloist ever to appear with the Orchestra, her performance amazed critics and the Associated Press captioned her "the greatest child pianist since Mozart."

As she became a mature artist, critics unanimously proclaimed that the development of her talent fulfilled the exciting promise she exhibited as a small child. She has won first place in three International Competitions: the International Bach Competition, 1960; the International Piano Competition of Guanabara, Rio de Janeiro, 1969; and the Naumburg Award, New York City, 1971, which resulted in the present recording.

Ms Shaulis' career spans three continents. In Europe she has played before sophisticated audiences of over 3,000. She has appeared with most of the major orchestras in the U.S. Her highly successful New York debut took place in Tully Hall of Lincoln Center in 1971. In South America, during performances in Rio de Janeiro, it was reported that "audiences streamed forward to the stage to applaud and yell bravos for 15 minutes."

Her recent Deutsche Grammophon Gesellschaft "Debut" recording of Bach's imposing *Goldberg Variations*, has been greeted with acclaim and she is becoming known as the new Bach interpreter in Europe.

She was the protégé of Agi Jambor for 10 years and continued her studies with Jacques Abram at the University of Toronto. She is married to poet William Kollock.

SAMUEL BARBER (b. Penna., 1910) is one of the most successful of American composers in terms of both popular acceptance and craftsmanship. He started winning prizes while still a student at the then-new Curtis Institute of Music, and has since been performed by major operatic, symphonic, balletic and chamber music organizations and by conductors from Toscanini on. His opera, *Antony and Cleopatra*, opened the new Metropolitan Opera in Lincoln Center, New York, in 1964.

The four gemlike EXCURSIONS (1945) are trips of small classical forms taken into local regions—or at least regional idioms—of America.

LOUIS GRUENBERG was born in Poland in 1884, came to the U.S.A. as an infant and died in Los Angeles in 1964. He studied piano with Busoni and pursued a pianist's career in Europe until 1919, when he returned to the U.S. and devoted himself entirely to composing.

During the period when "modern music" was going through its traumatic early years, he was one of those most active in promoting its performance. He wrote several operas, five symphonies and other large-scale works, some of which were considered scandalous because of their use of jazz rhythms. His most noted work in retrospect was his opera, *The Emperor Jones*, which starred Lawrence Tibbett at the Metropolitan Opera.

POLYCHROMATICS Op. 16, (1924) are eight brief and evocative piano pieces, sometimes of dazzling texture, whose titles explain (or obscure) them sufficiently: 1. Instead of a Prolog; 2. Out of the Mist; 3. The Lady with the Damask-Mantle; 4. The Knight of the Black Pool; 5. Festivities; 6. A Rag-Time Fragment; 7. Invocation; 8. Instead of an Epilog.

ERNEST BLOCH was born in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1880 and died in Portland, Oregon in 1959. He was among the most eminent of contemporary composers, having taught and influenced a whole generation of Americans, and having composed works of major scope and interest. His *Schelomo*, a Hebrew rhapsody for cello and orchestra, has become a standard repertory item. During his first period of residence in the U.S.A., devoted to teaching at the Cleveland and then the San Francisco Conservatory, he wrote an "epic rhapsody," *America* which was played one day in New York and the next simultaneously in Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia and San Francisco. In 1939, after a decade in Switzerland, he returned to the U.S.A. and entered his period of composition in a new-classical style.

Bloch's only PIANO SONATA was composed in 1935. It is a dramatic statement in an individualistic style that has been described as "modern European." Its three movements are played without pause.

The Walter W. Naumburg Foundation was formed in 1926 to foster musical performance and composition in the United States. This purpose is realized through a series of annual competitions, one each for pianists, solo string players and singers (with emphasis on lieder). Winners in each division receive a cash award, an all-expenses-paid concert in New York's Alice Tully Hall or a recording, plus further support to promote the winner's career.

ZOLA SHAULIS chose to make the enclosed recording as part of her prize as winner of the 1971 Piano Contest.

In addition, the Naumburg Chamber Music Award was inaugurated in 1972 to provide a concert in New York for a selected chamber music group. This concert includes a work to be commissioned by the Naumburg's composer committee specifically for this group.

The Naumburg Foundation also sponsors an annual Recording Award. Winning compositions are selected by a jury of distinguished musicians to be recorded by CRI. The 1972 Naumburg Recording Award was won by compositions of David Diamond and David Del Tredici (CRI SD 294). The recording of Seymour Shifrin's *Three Pieces for Orchestra* (CRI SD 275), the 1971 winning work, in 1972 won the Koussevitzky International Recording Award.

*(Original liner notes from CRI LP jacket)*