

**Review of CD Bassa Nova
in DOUBLEBASSIST 2005**

“Christine Hooch draws a rich, velvety sound and shapes her enterprising programme with imagination and musicality in this, her first CD. Her playing is compelling throughout, demonstrating all the requisite technical assurance, particularly in the cadenza of Bottesini’s Allegro di Concerto “Alla Mendelssohn”. DUO PIASSO contributes tasteful supporting roles in Bottesini’s adaptation of Chopin’s Etude Op. 25/7 as an aria, Tutto il mondo serra, but Claudia Nüsse’s powerful voice lacks clarity of distinction.

Hooch and Nussbaum forge an excellent partnership in Fank Proto’s Sonata 1963, a challenging blend of classical and Jazz idioms. They sustain the lyrical opening movement with skill and subtlety, and Hooch demonstrates her mastery of pizzicato in the jazz second movement. They are appropriately reflective in the “Blues”, before unleashing their virtuosity in vital, rhythmic finale.

Both players cultivate a pleasing cantabile in Asarkhyn’s arrangement of an Adagio from Shostakovich’s ballet The Clear Stream and give a convincing account of Leo Eylar’s Suite in Three Movements, achieving sense and coherence from its quasi-improvisatory musical language. They also capture the wit of Francaix’s Mozart New-Look, comprising an amusing blend of snippets from Mozart’s Don Giovanni and Bizet’s Carmen, and positively revel in the folksy, improvisatory character of Emil Tabakov’s Motiv, turning its fascination with timbre and texture into an absorbing musical drama and demonstrating their virtuosity with exuberance and élan.”