

JOHN CAGE

Haydée Schwartz

Jack Bruce

FOUR WALLS (1943-44)

Featuring JACK BRUCE, voice

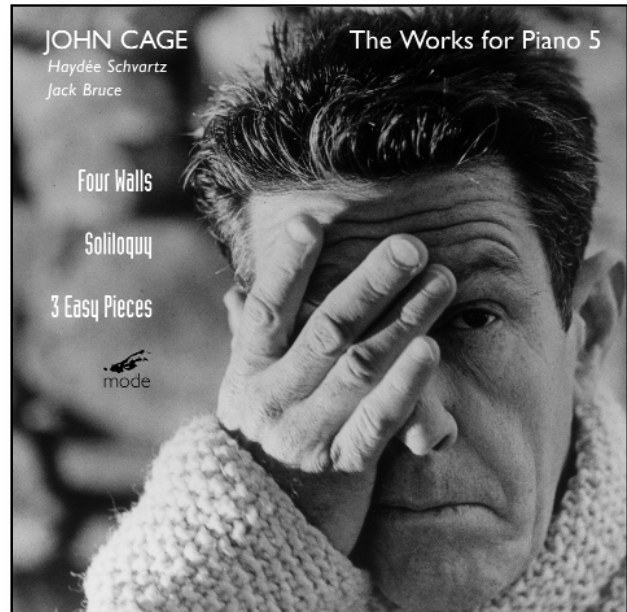
SOLILOQUY (1945)

3 EASY PIECES (1933)

FOUR WALLS is a powerful and pivotal work in Cage's oeuvre. This large-scale piece was written as a "dance-drama" with text and dance by his long-time collaborator Merce Cunningham. It was performed only once in 1944 in a production with actors (which included a young Julie Harris) and other dancers, and was not heard again until it was revived some 30 years later.

- Cage said that *Four Walls* deals with the "disturbed mind." This feeling is accentuated by the dramatic music, whose use of repetition, intense ostinatos, and silence evokes at times a harrowing closed-in sensibility. In addition, some long silences which are integral to the composition allow the listeners to turn their attention inwards.
- It was written using only the white keys of the piano.
- *Four Walls* shows Cage's seminal ideas on silence, repetition and gradual change, as well as influences of Eastern philosophy and music—its use of repetition foreshadows later minimalist music.
- At Cunningham's request, Cage also devised a shorter "solo" piece extrapolated from *Four Walls*, which Cunningham performed several times in his early recitals. Entitled **SOLILOQUY**, it is also presented here.
- The **THREE EASY PIECES** are early, tonal Cage. The three movements—Round, Duo, and an "infinite" Canon—are written in an almost continuous 2-part contrapuntal style.
- Liner notes are by Cage's long-time friend and publisher, Don Gillespie.

The Works for Piano 5



THE PERFORMERS

HAYDÉE SCHVARTZ is one of Argentina's leading pianists, performing repertoire from classical to contemporary music. She is a student of the American virtuoso pianist Yvar Mikhashoff, whom she studied with in Buffalo, New York under a Fulbright scholarship. Schwartz has performed in the major concert halls of Argentina and several countries of North/South America and Europe.

She is joined here by **JACK BRUCE** (voice); composer, singer, bassist and multi-instrumentalist of the legendary rock group **Cream**. His eclectic approach to music in his solo recordings and bands mixes rock, blues (performing with John Mayall) and jazz (with Tony Williams Lifetime, John McLaughlin, Billy Cobham and Larry Coryell), with forays into the avant-garde (with ECM artists Michael Mantler and Carla Bley).

ALSO BY HAYDÉE SCHVARTZ ON MODE RECORDS:
New Piano Works from Europe and the Americas by PÄRT: Variationen zur Gesundung von Arinuschka; Für Alina; CAGE: Perpetual Tango; SCELISI: Quattro Illustrazioni; KAGEL: An Tasten; BERIO: Brin; Leaf; SCHUMANN: Davidsbündlertänze #14; GANDINI: Eusebius; VALVERDE: Ek-Stasis. (mode 31)

Gabriel VALVERDE: Resplandor de los Surem (1996-98) for piano solo. (mode 94)



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