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CLASSICAL NOTES



IVORY HUNTERS

Lukas Foss was barely out of his teens during the halcyon period of American composition in the nineteen-forties. He was considered a piano prodigy when he composed the first of his two bracingly inventive concertos, both of which have been revived on a new Harmonia Mundi release. (He wrote the second at the age of twenty-eight.) The American pianist Jon Nakamatsu brings a sunny, robust lyricism to the Concerto No. 1, a witty expansion on the neo-Baroque idiom of Foss's teacher, Paul Hindemith; Yakov Kasman, a young Russian, delivers the jagged and percussive rhythms of the Concerto No. 2 with a fine, Slavic smokiness. Both pianists receive superb support from the Pacific Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Carl St. Clair.