

**„THE MOZART SESSIONS“**  
**Markus Schirmer, piano / A Far Cry**

Winner of the



**Award, May-June 2013 !**

Seventeen musicians from Boston make up the ensemble **A Far Cry**, a small chamber orchestra with an astonishing suppleness and accuracy of intonation that recalls the glory days of the English Chamber Orchestra. Although playing on modern instruments, these performers have obviously studied the Baroque masters well. They “sing” with style, and without a trace of dryness in their bowing.

**Markus Schirmer**, playing a silken-toned Fazioli, is endlessly inventive. He revels in story-telling, by turns serious and idyllic. And he does so with tremendous warmth and above all, elegance, without a trace of the precious. His attacks are fluidly calibrated in their drive and percussiveness, and his dynamics are stamped with a clear-cut beauty.

These performances are all the more personal and intriguing for the forthright way they lay claim to the “chamber” dimension, and the simple joy, of this music. A certain youthfulness is apparent in these performances, even an adolescent “cheekiness” (in the finales), reminiscent of what one finds occasionally in Murray Perahia.

In short: two bracing readings, enhanced by a very live and “in the flesh” recorded sound.

The disc is rounded off by one of the Church Sonatas originally composed for organ and orchestra, here arranged for piano and orchestra: a “Piano Concerto No.28” !

***pianiste (France)***