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GRAMOPHONE *Collector* MUSIC FOR RECORDER

Richard Whitehouse listens to four discs showcasing the ancient and modern extremes of repertoire for the recorder

Few countries can rival Denmark when it comes to revitalising the contemporary recorder repertoire. From the current crop of composers, **Mogens Christensen** (b1955) is among the most significant – as attested by 'Busy Bees and Birds', in which Pernille Petersen is a dedicated exponent. She and accordionist Bjarke Mogensen find a heady symbiosis in the duo *Feuerspiegel*, then she conveys an ethereal detachment in the seasonal traversal of *Nocturnal Birds* and a limpid poise in the brief yet engaging *Arie(s)*. She is joined by guitarist Per Pålsson for the *Dansebagateller* that constitutes an unlikely 'theme and variations' in which each piece is a variation on its predecessor – climaxing in the mesmeric *tour de force* of the sixth bagatelle. The final piece also gives this disc its title, Petersen joined here by the Messer Quartet in a compact but eventful 'concerto' where the sound of bees mutates into that of birds thanks to a little electronic assistance. It ends an absorbing disc that takes the recorder to new limits.

