Portuguese composer Vasco Mendonca regards this portrait album as a letter to himself - written over time and with different chapters that throw light on his long-standing obsessions with drama, ritual and precision mechanism, Group Together, Avoid Speech highlights the string and woodwind principals of the wonderful Gulbenkian Orchestra to create 'a Baroque concerto grosso on steroids', while Unanswerable Light is a memorial to a friend and a meditation on fury and loss. The piano concerto Step Right Up is 'a ritual celebration between the most incredible music box - the orchestra - and the most beautiful sound machine - the piano.'



Vasco **MENDONÇA** (b. 1977)



Mentor & Protégé

Step Right Up

Group Together, Avoid Speech • Unanswerable Light

	Step Right Up (2018)
4	I Joyful Colobratory

23:14 8:03

I. Joyful, Celebratory II. Nostalgic, Somewhat Desperate

7:43 7:24

III. Triumphant

23:00

Group Together, Avoid Speech (2012) I. Solemn, Assertive

7:46

5 II. Nocturnal III. Agitated

6:32 8:36

Unanswerable Light (2016)

15:07

I. Distant II. Grave, Restrained

- 8:14 6:48
- WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS

Roger Muraro, Piano 1-3 Gulbenkian Orchestra • Benjamin Shwartz

Recorded: 17-22 June 2018 at the Grande Auditório, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal Producer: Santi Barguñó • Engineer: Hugo Romano Guimarães • Editor: Santi Barguñó Booklet notes: Vasco Mendonça • Publisher: Composer's manuscript Kindly supported by the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative A co-production with the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation • Cover image © Lars Tunbjörk / Agence VU

NAXOS

MENDONÇA: Step Right Up

DDD 8.579025

Playing Time 61:35

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