

Carducci Quartet

CD REVIEW OF DAVID BRUCE'S NEW CLARINET QUINTET
"haunting, then breezy, catchy, exhilarating"

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FINANCIAL TIMES/FT.COM BY RICHARD FAIRMAN

Bruce: Gumboots; Brahms: Clarinet Quintet

Matthew Denton, violin, Michelle Fleming, violin, Eoin Schmidt-Martin, viola, Emma Denton, cello

★★★★ (out of 5)

Bruce; Brahms

'Gumboots'; Clarinet Quintet
Julian Bliss/Carducci Quartet
(Signum Classics)

Here are unlikely bedfellows. David Bruce's *Gumboots* looks back to the apartheid regime in South Africa, when miners had to toil in flooded gold mines wearing gumboots.

The rhythms of them slapping their boots and chains are transformed into a set of African inspired dance movements for bass clarinet and string quartet — at first haunting, then breezy, catchy, exhilarating.

It seems improbable that admirers of Bruce's music are in urgent need of a new recording of Brahms's Clarinet Quintet. If they are, clarinetist Julian Bliss and the Carducci Quartet are most sensitive and elegiac.

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