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Erling Wold's chamber opera UKSUS: New CD from MinMax Music due May 17, 2019

The newest chamber opera by Erling Wold, "a true California eccentric and polymath" (*Bachtrack*) and "The Eric Satie of Berkeley surrealist/minimalist electro-artrock" (*Village Voice*), UKSUS is a mixture of stories and poems from the OBERIU (The Association for Real Art), a group of Russian writers and artists in Leningrad in the 1930s, of which the best known is the eccentric Daniil Kharms. The *San Francisco Chronicle* called UKSUS "a feverish mashup of artistic and political history, commentary on vinegar and meatballs, and non sequiturs, all set to Wold's tangy, versatile score."

The cast features Timur, the "extravagantly transgressive tenor" (*Los Angeles Times*) in the role of Kharms, along with the "vocally resplendent" (*Opera News*) Laura Bohn, mezzo Nikola Printz, and actor Bob Ernst. An ensemble of crossover musicians from the new-music / jazz / classical scenes is conducted by Bryan Nies.

What is amazing about the OBERIU is that, while living in abject fear and panic under Stalin, they laughed and laughed and laughed, loved wordplay and nonsense, rejoiced in absurdity, and held onto that love and joy and laughter to very end, to their ambiguous deaths in custody of The State, the secret police, the NKVD.

MinMax Music, continuing its tradition of releasing innovative new opera and vocal works, presents this premiere recording, distributed exclusively by Starkland. This follows Wold's earlier releases on MinMax, including the critically acclaimed operas *Certitude and Joy*, about a woman who kills her three children on orders from God, *A Little Girl Dreams of Taking the Veil*, the dream-story of a convent-bound girl by Max Ernst, and *Mordake*, chronicling the descent of Edward Mordake, born with his sister's face on the back of his head.

Other acclaimed recordings from MinMax Music include Paul Drescher's and Rinde Eckert's *Slow Fire*, Steve Mackey's and Rinde Eckert's *Ravenshead* (ranked as "the best new opera of 1998" by *USA Today*), Jay Clويدt's *Spectral Evidence*, and Amanda Moody's and Jay Clويدt's *D'Arc: woman on fire*.

In addition to distributing recordings from other labels, Starkland releases compelling, alternative classical music from such composers as Starkland composers include Charles Amirkhonian, Phillip Bimstein, Martin Bresnick, Tim Brady, Tod Dockstader, Paul Drescher, Peter Garland, Aaron Jay Kernis, Phil Kline, Guy Klucevsek, Lukas Ligeti, Keeril Makan, Ingram Marshall, Žibuoklė Martinaitytė, Merzbow, Meredith Monk, Pauline Oliveros, Frederic Rzewski, Elliott Sharp, Carl Stone, Lois V Vierk, and Pamela Z.

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