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Thomas Adès Explores Time Real and Imagined with the Calder Quartet

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By Jeffrey Zeigler



"Thomas Adès: The Twenty-Fifth Hour" (Signum Classics)



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"Thomas Adès: The Twenty-Fifth Hour" is Available at [Amazon.com](#)

Thomas Adès's newest album, "The Twenty-Fifth Hour" is a fascinating exploration of time both real and envisioned. It opens with the Los Angeles-based Calder Quartet joined by the composer on his Piano Quintet. This work, written in 2001, begins with an intriguingly off-kilter gesture in the violin that pulls the listener on a journey towards an unknown destination. As each voice enters the listener is keenly aware of the evolution that is simultaneously taking place. It is a captivating journey and throughout the listener is spellbound by Adès's vivid imagery and the rich character of each voice.

The next work on the album is the premiere recording of *The Four Quarters* from 2011. The movement titles of this string quartet ("Nightfalls," "Serenade: Morning Dew," "Days" and "The Twenty-Fifth Hour") seem to evoke moments in a daily cycle, with the fourth movement taking us an hour beyond time itself. In fact, the movement is in itself its own statement on time, written in a complex 25/16 meter (8+3+8+6).

The final work, *Arcadiana*, is over 25 years old. Its appearance here is a profound statement of the span and scope of Adès's work over the past two decades. Six of the seven movements evoke various vanished or vanishing idylls. We reflect upon the music of Mozart and Elgar, the paintings of Watteau and the image of

Venice at night. And as these idylls begin to pass in time, the final movement, "Lethe," in Greek mythology is the river of forgetting.

The Calder Quartet are truly a 21st-century string quartet. They are armed to the hilt with the skill and musicianship to tackle older repertoire while having the daring to explore new horizons. Listen to the complete album below.

"Thomas Adès: The Twenty-Fifth Hour"

Signum Classics | Released April 14

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Jeffrey Zeigler was the cellist of the internationally renowned Kronos Quartet for eight seasons. He has been the recipient of the Avery Fischer Prize, the Polar Music Prize, the President's Merit Award from the National Academy of Recorded Arts and the Chamber Music America Richard J. Bogomolny National Service Award.

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