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Libertango: The music of Astor Piazzolla

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Libertango: The Music of Astor Piazzolla
The Macquarie Trio- Nicolas Milton (violin), Kathryn Selby (piano), Michael
Goldschlager (cello)
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Piazzolla’s own tango recordings, dominated by the folksy sound of his bandoneon (button accordion) playing, have a rough quality related to the origins of the genre in the brothels of Buenos Aires. Thus it is difficult to imagine the Macquarie Trio, with its refined sound, attempting this distinctive popular music genre. But these stylish arrangements (presumably by José Bragato and Quentin Grant who are briefly mentioned in the CD booklet) preserve much of the passion and energy of the original recordings. Indeed the players get stuck into the faster tango grooves in a machine-like manner. On the other hand the slower works and passages are given exquisitely tender treatment. The recording features Las Cuatro Estaciones Porteñas (a homage to Vivaldi’s Four Seasons), a set of contrasting variations on the same thematic material; and there are 13 single-movement works. The musicianship is outstanding.