

## PRESS & REVIEWS

“How wonderful of him to write here for a contralto too, Karen R. Clark; it was her voice that co-inspired the work, along with the writings of Henry David Thoreau. Clark’s voice is a thing of beauty, but also what might be described as a plummy mystery; consistently fascinating (I can see why Schwantner was so enamored).” *Fanfare*

“This fascinating and beautiful new release, a collaboration between contralto Karen Clark and the Galax Quartet, boasts an endless dialogue between tradition and innovation, past and present. It’s mesmerizing. Clark’s majestic, throaty singing hints of modernist extravagance and medieval troubadours.” *San Francisco Chronicle*

“Joseph Schwantner’s Dream Drapery Thoreau Songs is a series of thoughtful meditations, a perfect foil to the kinesthetic work before it. He gives us so much breathing room, room to contemplate and soak in Thoreau’s poetry, sung by Karen R. Clark in her haunting, dark, honey-gold voice.” *American Record Guide*

"The seven women of Vajra Voices – richly voiced, contrasted individuals who shine as soloists or conspire without egotism in vivid, full-blooded ensemble – sing out with tremendous intensity. Led by the wide emotional spectrum of Karen R. Clark’s contralto, the shimmering resonance of their elegantly paced performances with entirely credible phrasing and selection of note lengths, coloured at times by instrumental accompaniment, vocal drones, and organum (sparing and tasteful), is delightful. Lovely, thoughtful, and inspiring instrumentals adorn this, the most convincing Hildegard disc I’ve yet heard from the USA." *Choir & Organ Magazine*

"Karen R. Clark has a beautiful voice that shows flexibility and nuance. Her performance of “O Quam Magnum Miraculum Est” is gorgeous." *American Record Guide*

“A special vocal group is required to do justice to Hildegard’s music, and we have it here in Vajra Voices, an ensemble of seven women dedicated to mediaeval and modern music. Contralto Karen Clark is the director. A hearty recommendation for this album. I very much enjoyed the full CD of music by Hildegard von Bingen.” *Audiophile Audition International*

"Karen Clark best known for her pure-voiced early music performances is sensitive to word, pitch, tone, and sentiment.” *Los Angeles Times*

“Sensitively performed by contralto Karen Clark— There's just enough Mahler to break your heart.” *San Francisco Chronicle*

"Contralto Karen Clark played a prominent role in Garrett and Moulton's acclaimed production *The Luminous Edge*, and her glorious voice provided a good deal of the initial inspiration for *Speak, Angels*.” *San Jose Mercury News*