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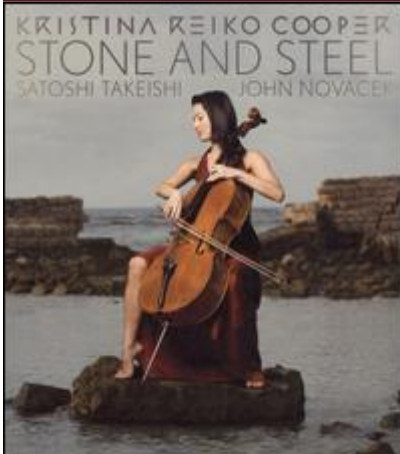
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## Stone and Steel

Top 10 Pick  
of the Year!

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### Review

by Uncle Dave Lewis

Cellist Kristina Reiko Cooper has been featured on several discs as a member of the duo (really a trio, as pianist [John Novacek](#) usually joins in) [Kristina and Laura](#) with violinist [Laura Frautschi](#) and was a member of [Quartetto Gelato](#) for a time and has worked with ensembles ranging from New York's [Continuum](#) to the [Whitman String Quartet](#). Linus Records' *Stone and Steel* is Cooper's first solo outing, where she is rejoined by [Novacek](#) and further abetted by percussionist [Satoshi Takeishi](#) and arrangers [Patrick Zimmerli](#) and [Kenji Bunch](#). Of course, [Bunch](#) is noted as arranger/composer of some of the more popularly oriented fare lately propagated -- to much grumbling and gnashing of teeth from classical music critics -- by the [Ahn Trio](#). In this case, such the teeth gnashing would tend to drown out what a lovely, singing tone; sense of phrasing; and dedication Cooper achieves throughout this Linus disc. [Novacek](#) keeps a consistently jazzy bag going throughout, and [Takeishi](#) is a superb and very creative percussionist, finding just the right sound with the right force to accent at the right time and laying out when he isn't needed. Actually, [Bunch](#) only contributes two rather restrained pieces to the disc, and [Zimmerli's Dido's Lament](#) (after [Purcell](#)) sounds almost more like [Bunch](#) than [Bunch's](#) own pieces here do; [Crawlspace](#) has a rocking, bluesy feel not generally characteristic of his work with the [Ahn Trio](#).

The disc is recorded with pop production values; it is very loud, in your face, and alive. While

#### Featured Artist

Kristina Reiko Cooper

#### Performance

★★★★★

#### Sound

★★★★★

#### Release Date

2008

#### Time

56:48

#### Label

Linus[270103]

#### AMG Album ID

W 179745

#### Corrections to this Entry?

some may feel that *Stone and Steel* might go over the top, in some respects, parts of it might not go quite far enough. At one point, the trio achieves a strong and exciting groove during Cooper's solo in [George Whitehead's Allemand](#) and it might've been fun to hang there a little longer, but the arrangement takes the trio off the chase. Some additional [Martin Denny](#)-style exotica and atmosphere might have been a nice addition to [Hide Those Eyes](#); perhaps another overdub from [Takeishi](#) would have done the trick. *Stone and Steel* is, nevertheless, a disc that will be wonderful to inspire young cellists and will likely prove entertaining to an audience far greater than welcomed the [Artur Schnabel](#) string quartets Cooper recorded as a member of the [Whitman](#); it also ably transmits what a terrific performer Cooper might be in person. Kristina Reiko Cooper has more than paid her debt to the cause of serious and seriously considered music. If *Stone and Steel* is her way of letting her hair down, then who are we to judge?

## Performances

Composer	Title	Year	Time
Patrick Zimmerli	 Dido's Lament (after Henry Purcell), for cello, piano & percussion		2:59
Performed by:	<a href="#">John Novacek</a> , <a href="#">Kristina Reiko Cooper</a> , <a href="#">Satoshi Takeishi</a> , <a href="#">More Performance Details...</a>		
Kenji Bunch	 Hide Those Eyes (after Henry Purcell), for cello, piano & percussion		5:59
Performed by:	<a href="#">John Novacek</a> , <a href="#">Kristina Reiko Cooper</a> , <a href="#">Satoshi Takeishi</a> , <a href="#">More Performance Details...</a>		
Patrick Zimmerli	 George Whitehead's Allemand (after John Dowland), for cello, piano & percussion		5:14
Performed by:	<a href="#">John Novacek</a> , <a href="#">Kristina Reiko Cooper</a> , <a href="#">Satoshi Takeishi</a> , <a href="#">More Performance Details...</a>		
Patrick Zimmerli	 Auctori Vite Psalmis, for cello, piano & percussion		7:10
Performed by:	<a href="#">John Novacek</a> , <a href="#">Kristina Reiko Cooper</a> , <a href="#">Satoshi Takeishi</a> , <a href="#">More Performance Details...</a>		
John Novacek	 After Rameau (after Jean-Philippe Rameau), for cello, piano & percussion		4:59
Performed by:	<a href="#">John Novacek</a> , <a href="#">Kristina Reiko Cooper</a> , <a href="#">Satoshi Takeishi</a> , <a href="#">More Performance Details...</a>		
Patrick Zimmerli	 Flow My Tears (after John Dowland), for cello, piano & percussion		4:01
Performed by:	<a href="#">John Novacek</a> , <a href="#">Kristina Reiko Cooper</a> , <a href="#">Satoshi Takeishi</a> , <a href="#">More Performance Details...</a>		
Kenji Bunch	 Crawlspace, for solo cello		5:05
Performed by:	<a href="#">John Novacek</a> , <a href="#">Kristina Reiko Cooper</a> , <a href="#">Satoshi Takeishi</a> , <a href="#">More Performance Details...</a>		
Patrick Zimmerli	 Columba Aspexit (after Hildegard von Bingen), for cello, piano & percussion		5:56
Performed by:	<a href="#">John Novacek</a> , <a href="#">Kristina Reiko Cooper</a> , <a href="#">Satoshi Takeishi</a> , <a href="#">More Performance Details...</a>		
Patrick Zimmerli	 Stone and Steel, for cello, piano & percussion		11:16
Performed by:	<a href="#">John Novacek</a> , <a href="#">Kristina Reiko Cooper</a> , <a href="#">Satoshi Takeishi</a> , <a href="#">More Performance Details...</a>		
Patrick Zimmerli / Satoshi Takeishi	 Dido's Lament Electronic (after Henry Purcell)		4:09
Performed by:	<a href="#">John Novacek</a> , <a href="#">Kristina Reiko Cooper</a> , <a href="#">Satoshi Takeishi</a> , <a href="#">More Performance Details...</a>		