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**BERIO – BOULEZ**

*Dialogue, Chemins, Récit*

It's the fate of classical saxophonists to spend most of their time playing works conceived for other instruments. In this collection, only Webern's Op 22 Quartet and Berio's *Récit* originated as works for saxophone, and even the Berio piece was premiered as a work for saxophone and full orchestra, though it's performed here in Vincent David's own version with just strings. *Chemins IV* is better known in its oboe-and-strings manifestation, though David's incisive playing provides a much sharper contrast to the body of strings than any oboe could, while the *Duos* for saxophone and violin are taken from the set of 34 Berio composed for two violins in the early 1980s. In Boulez's arabesque-laden piece, originally for clarinet and real-time electronics, the duetting with a digitally generated mirror image of the saxophone sound also acquires more of an edge than the original; whether playing soprano, alto or his tenor instrument, David's performance is a model of musicality and instinctive understanding.

**Andrew Clements – The Guardian – 16 May 2008**