

Izumi Kuremoto

Late Chrysanthemums

Shotpeen 2×CD + DVD

The mysteriously elusive Izumi Kuremoto appears to be a Japanese composer based in New York. *Venus*, for solo violin, was realised by Ellen Gronningen in 1993 and *Opening*, for two soprano voices, two cellos and the composer's MIDI embellishments, was recorded in 2001. These flamboyantly gestural pieces can be heard in standard stereo and in still more vivid 5.1 surround sound on the DVD, where they are combined with Mark Depman's video images of cascading water, maritime traffic and airport activity. Two recordings from 2016 on the second CD exhibit less extrovert fluency, more shading and variability of mood but also a more pronounced air of formality. Soloist Elizabeth Panzer joins The Brooklyn String Quartet for *Three Movements For Harp And Strings*. Then violinist Gronningen, a member of that quartet, steps into the expressive limelight once again to etch out the contours of *Late Chrysanthemums*, with a mellowing gloss from Eric Phinney's vibraphone.