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Records International review of Monsterslayer

CURT CACIOPPO (b.1951): America: a prayer, ¡Angelus!, Old Petitions, Pawnee Preludes, Monsterslayer (Nayénĕzgạni). Cacioppo is an authority on Native American music and campaigner against the social injustices visited upon the indigenous American peoples. Thematic elements from Native American music recur throughout the music on this disc, as in the Pawnee Preludes which use Pawnee melodies as ground basses around which the composer weaves quasi-improvisational harmony and contrapuntal commentary. The string quartet Monsterslayer (after a Navajo legend) is a dramatic piece of musical narrative, sufficiently tonal and conventionally structured easily to be followed through its 35 minutes, yet full of strikingly graphic sound effects to heighten the almost cinematic vividness of its story-telling. Curt Cacioppo (piano), Emerson String Quartet. Capstone CPS 8652 (U.S.A.) **09A085** $16.98 <http://www.recordsinternational.com/archive/RICatalogSept98.html>