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BODY:

Tarik O'Regan, *Threshold of Night*: Music for Voices and Strings performed by Conspirare and the Company of Voices conducted by Craig Hella Johnson (Harmonia Mundi). Tarik O'Regan is a 30-year-old British composer now living in New York. This music for chorus and strings is of unearthly beauty. The music is strongly tonal -- even hauntingly tuneful in the *Triptych* -- and, as with much of Ralph Vaughan Williams or Gavin Bryars (to take entirely different generations of British composers) the volume levels seldom seem to exceed the briefest forte. As with the music of John Adams, you know listening to O'Regan that the minimalism of Glass, Reich, Nyman and Riley once happened, but that this composer has no interest in any music that smacks, even remotely, of mannerism or theory. He wrote much of this at the Yaddo writers' colony in Saratoga, so it should surprise no one that he takes his texts from Emily Dickinson, Pablo Neruda, Edgar Allan Poe (*Israfil*), Kathleen Raine, John Fletcher, Blake, Wordsworth, Hardy and Milton.

JEFF SIMON