

Vivaldi, Jacob, Francaix & C.P.E. Bach: Bassoon Concertos

Mr Kunert has a clean, pure sound, and not too reedy. Having had the opportunity to study with a German bassoonist, I understand that the preferred style is a clean and rounded tone, one that doesn't get too edgy. He maintains the resulting pleasant and delightful sound, but is not boring or monotonous about it.

This program has a well-rounded selection of concertos to ensure the listener's ear does not tire of one type of music. Vivaldi's concerto is juxtaposed to Gordon Jacob's work, elevating the similarities and differences in writing style. Mr Kunert displays sensitivity and refined expression in II. In contrast to Gordon Jacob's concerto, one appreciates the caliber of orchestra that accompanies him. The Jacob is a goofy piece, with humor and wit.

In Jean Francaix's Concerto with 11 stringed instruments, this virtuoso bassoonist displays an excess of technique he just happens to have sitting around; and with a full string complement, III is a luscious backdrop with a sweet singing solo line. IV gets a bit crazy with the double-tonguing, but he certainly gives it a great run.

Closing the program is a concerto in A minor by CPE Bach. The transcription from a flute concerto forces the bassoonist to sing in the extreme upper register, which plays up the misterioso element.

Overall, Mr Kunert is a fine young bassoonist who seems to have a promising musical career ahead of him.

David Schwartz

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