

Strauss, Poulenc, & Rihm: Werke für Violoncello und Klavier (Movimentos Edition)

This disc would be worth it just for its length. But there are better reasons for investing in it.

To begin with, the sonatas by Richard Strauss and Poulenc are lovely works full of fine music. They are played with warmth and accuracy, and the recording is notable for clarity and satisfying sonority. Kloeckner sometimes gets lost under the piano. There is such a thing as being too sensitive. This happens seldom, and the two players work very well together, bringing out the best in both works. The little Poulenc encore is a transcription by the cellist of Poulenc's setting of a poem by Louis Aragon.

Then we have Wolfgang Rihm (b 1952) in a transcription of a 16-minute work that he originally wrote for violin and piano, calling it Antlitz. This is a work of sound rather than melody, but it is well worth hearing. Finally we return to Strauss with a really lovely Romance, full of variety and lyricism.

This is a satisfying program to the ears and played with involvement and tonal beauty. The fine recording does it full justice. © 2014 American Record Guide

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GEN 14313

American Record Guide

9/17/2014