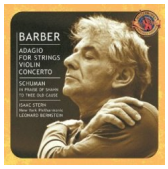
Bernstein conducts Barber Schuman Ives Copland (2003)



Samuel Barber *1 Adagio for Strings 2 Violin Concerto, Op. 14: I. Allegro 3 Violin Concerto, Op. 14: II. Andante 4 Violin Concerto, Op. 14: III. Presto in moto*
William Schuman
5 To Thee Old Cause (Evocation for Oboe, Brass, Timpani, Piano and Strings) 6 In Praise of Shahn (Canticle for Orchestra): Vigoroso 7 In Praise of Shahn (Canticle for Orchestra): Lento (bar 185)
Charles Ives
8 The Unanswered Question for Trumpet, Flute Quartet and Strings
Aaron Copeland
9 Symphony No. 3: Fanfare for the Common Man
Isaac Stern (violin) New York Philharmonic Leonard Bernstein – conductor

This recent Sony reissue of the music of American composers Samuel Barber and William Schuman is exactly the same as a CD featured in the "Bernstein Century" series. Included here are Leonard Bernstein and the NYPO's 1971 account of the "Adagio for Strings," 1964 recording of Barber's Violin Concerto, 1968 performance of Schuman's "To Thee Old Cause," and "In Praise of Shahn" from 1970. The music is terrific, but my reason for rewarding only four stars (other than being annoyed at Sony for investing so much energy in a straight reissue with new packaging when so many other classic recordings remain unissued) is this release is obviously aimed at casual fans looking for a good performance of the "Adagio." And boy will they be surprised by the dissonance of the Schuman pieces! This is another Sony reissue that leaves me scratching my head. --- Michael B. Richman, amazon.com

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