

Johannes Brahms - Hungarian Dances (Abbado) [2012]

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 21 October 2009 19:30 - Last Updated Tuesday, 17 September 2013 15:06

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01. Hungarian Dance No.1 in G minor 02. Hungarian Dance No.2 in D minor 03. Hungarian Dance No.3 in F 04. Hungarian Dance No.4 in F sharp minor 05. Hungarian Dance No.5 in G minor 06. Hungarian Dance No.6 in D flat 07. Hungarian Dance No.7 in F Hungarian Dance No. 7 in A 08. Hungarian Dance No.8 in A minor 09. Hungarian Dance No.9 in E minor 10. Hungarian Dance No.10 in F - Orchestrated by Brahms 11. Hungarian Dance No.11 in D minor 12. Hungarian Dance No.12 in D minor 13. Hungarian Dance No.13 in D 14. Hungarian Dance No.14 in D minor 15. Hungarian Dance No.15 in B flat 16. Hungarian Dance No.16 in F minor 17. Hungarian Dance No.17 in F sharp minor 18. Hungarian Dance No.18 in D - 19. Hungarian Dance No.19 in B minor 20. Hungarian Dance No.20 in E minor 21. Hungarian Dance No.21 in E minor Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra Claudio Abbado - conductor

Typically we experience the Hungarian Dances individually as choice morsels, each capturing a few brief moments of full-blooded emotion. But in a single sitting, these works are the ultimate Classical music roller-coaster ride. And this recording may be the ultimate experience: the familiar gypsy tunes, dancing through extreme tempo changes, alternatively joyful and melancholy, are, in the hands of Claudio Abbado and the Vienna Philharmonic, quite thrilling. Though written for keyboard, the works have been well served through various instrumentations, but especially in these orchestral arrangements where the colors and textures seem to come to life. Somewhat unique in the orchestral repertoire, the pieces lend themselves to a wide range of interpretation - though immaculate technique and a fearless delivery are essential requirements. Aside from the oft-recorded 4-Hand piano versions, Joseph Joachim's arrangements for solo violin are a wonderful contrast to these recordings, especially in a favorite disc by Aaron Rosand. First choice must still go to the arrangements heard here though. Even on the shortest of essential lists of Classical Music, this Vienna Philharmonic recording deserves a choice spot. Top Recommendation. ---Robert Layton, arkivmusic.com

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