

Natalie Dessay – Vocalises (1998)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 18 March 2010 18:30 - Last Updated Saturday, 01 March 2014 22:24

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1. *Vocalise, song for voice & piano, Op. 34/14: No. 14 Vocalise (Rachmaninov)* 2. *The Nightingale (Salaviei), for voice & piano (Alyabyev)* 3. *Le Rossignol, song for voice & piano (Camille Saint-Saëns)* 4. *Les Filles de Cadix, bolero for voice & piano (or orchestra) (Léo Delibes)* 5. *Vocalise-Étude en forme de Habanera, for voice & piano (Maurice Ravel)* 6. *Goyescas (Dandies in Love), pieces (6) in 2 books for piano, H. 64, DLR 2:4: No. 4, Le Maja y el Ruisenor (Enrique Granados)* 7. *Deh, torna, mio bene, theme and variations for voice & accompaniment, Op. 164 (Heinrich Proch)* 8. *La Villanelle for voice & piano (or orchestra) (Eva Dell'Acqua)* 9. *Concerto for Coloratura Soprano & Orchestra, Op. 82: Andante (Reinhold Glière)* 10. *Concerto for Coloratura Soprano & Orchestra, Op. 82: Allegro (Reinhold Glière)* 11. *Frühlingsstimmen (Voices of Spring), waltz for orchestra (with voice ad lib), Op. 410 (RV 410) (Johann Strauss II)* Natalie Dessay – soprano Richard Waage – flute Berliner Sinfonie-Orchester Michael Schonwandt – conductor

This is a wonderful collection of coloratura pieces. Dessay is tremendous technically, and, though the voice can be a bit thin at times, she is absolutely stunning in this repertoire. As a coloratura-in-training, I am listen in awe as Dessay fools her audience into thinking this is simple stuff! While it may seem to be on the verge of heresy, I much prefer Dessay to Joan Sutherland (though she is indeed La Stupenda) and even enjoy listening to her over Sills. The reviews which comment on Dessay seeming to have a less-than solid sound and comparing her to Fleming may be forgetting that this type of literature cannot afford to sound weighty, nor can the voice perform optimally with a weight up in the rafters! Though I think Fleming is a fine singer, I personally prefer listening to Dessay, and I certainly learn more from the experience. This is an incredible album and a true accomplishment. Also, if Dessay is your cup of tea, check out the recording of *Lakme* with Dessay in the title role-wow! ---"puccinigirl", amazon.com

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