

Spohr - Violin Concertos Nos. 1, 14, 15 (2000)

Written by bluesever

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01] Violinkonzert Nr. 14 a-moll op. 110 - Concertino 'Sonst und jetzt' 02] Violinkonzert Nr. 15 e-moll op. 128 - 1. Allegro 03] Violinkonzert Nr. 15 e-moll op. 128 - 2. Larghetto 04] Violinkonzert Nr. 15 e-moll op. 128 - 3. Rondo grazioso 05] Violinkonzert Nr. 1 A-dur op. 1 - 1. Allegro vivace 06] Violinkonzert Nr. 1 A-dur op. 1 - 2. Siciliano 07] Violinkonzert Nr. 1 A-dur op. 1 - 3. Polonaise Ulf Hoelscher - violin Rundfunk Sinfonieorchester Berlin Christian Fröhlich – conductor

During his lifetime the music of Louis Spohr aroused such widespread admiration that his contemporaries frequently mentioned his compositions in the same breath as those of Beethoven. Subsequent generations, however, have taken a much more sober view of his achievement. For instance, out of his 15 numbered violin concertos, only the Eighth, conceived in the rather unconventional form of an operatic scena, still hovers on the fringes of the repertoire. Yet on the evidence of Ulf Hoelscher's invaluable series for CPO, the almost total neglect of the other concertos seems unjustified. This latest instalment in the complete cycle maintains the impressive standards set in previous recordings. Hoelscher demonstrates a formidable mastery of Spohr's technically challenging passagework, although his efforts are somewhat undermined by the recessed sound of the orchestra. The music itself is attractive and melodious, without plumbing great emotional depths. Nonetheless, it is fascinating to experience a bird's-eye view of Spohr's development, from the elegant if somewhat four-square First Concerto to the more sophisticated harmonic and formal structures of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth. Underlying all these works is Spohr's remarkable constancy of musical language, as well as a reluctance to move with the times – factors which may well have hastened his demise later in the 19th century. ---Erik Levi, classical-music.com

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