Ernest Bloch – Violin Sonatas (Shaham) [2004]

1. Violin Sonata No 1 - Agitato
2. Violin Sonata No 1 - Molto quieto
3. Violin Sonata No 1 - Moderato
4. Violin Sonata No 2 - Andante moderato
5. Violin Sonata No 2 - Animato
6. Violin Sonata No 2 - L'istesso tempo
7. Violin Sonata No 2 - Animato
8. Mélodie
9. Nuit exotique
10. Abodah

Hagai Shaham: violin
Arnon Erez: piano

Hagai Shaham has already demonstrated his thrilling virtuosity and luscious tone in his Hyperion recordings of Jenö Hubay, and here he shines in the richly expressive music of Ernest Bloch. The two violin sonatas are contrasting works (Bloch described No 1 as embodying ‘the world as it is’, while No 2 represents ‘the world as it should be’): the first is in three movements and balances violent and ritualistic motifs with passages of dream-like calm; the second is more simple and lyrical, characterized by long melodic lines and stylistically not unlike Szymanowski. The three shorter works are also lyrical and, like most of Bloch’s music, exemplify the Jewish influence on Bloch’s musical idiom.

Lovers of the violin and early twentieth-century Romanticism will revel in ravishing music performed with such an irresistible zeal and flair.---hyperion-records.co.uk

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