The Liszt Recordings – Krystian Zimerman (2011)



CD 1: The Liszt Recordings Piano Concerto No.1 in E flat, S.124 *1.1. Allegro maestoso 5:31 2.2. Quasi adagio - Allegretto vivace - Allegro animato 8:54 3.3. Allegro marziale animato 4:02* Piano Concerto No.2 in A, S.125
4.1. Adagio sostenuto assai - Allegro agitato assai 7:27 5.2. Allegro moderato - Allegro deciso 8:19 6.3. Marziale un poco meno allegro 4:23 7.4. Allegro animato - Stretto (molto accelerando) 1:44 8.Totentanz, S. 525 15:12
CD 2: The Liszt Recordings Piano Sonata In B Minor, S.178
1.Lento assai - Allegro energico 12:19 2.Andante sostenuto - 7:21 3.Allegro energico 10:58 4.Nuages gris, S.199 3:13 5.La Notte, S.60 29:45 6.La Lugubre Gondola, S.200 no.2 9:53 7.Funérailles 12:19
Krystian Zimerman – piano Boston Symphony Orchestra Seiji Ozawa – conductor

It is hard to imagine what can be bettered in these recordings. Not only does the sound have a depth, clarity and imposingly spacious feeling, but also the pianos used are tuned to near perfection. The orchestra in the concertos are supportive, attentive and always there to follow and lead the ideas of the soloist. Ozawa, that much underrated accompanist, is a true partner and not intimidated by the powerhouse of the pianist he is collaborating with.

What else is there to say? Ah yes, the pianist! Never a person to be satisfied with less than the über-perfect, Zimerman incorporates a multitude of nuances and colours into these Liszt works that simply leave you feeling totally satisfied. Listening with the score you simply nod constantly, saying yes, he did the right thing and yes, he made everything as the composer wanted. The concertos, especially the First, which can be rattled off as an empty showpiece, are deeper in expression than probably even Liszt imagined. The Second is not as heavy-handed and burdensome as most pianists make it. The crowning glory is a recoding of the Sonata that still is among the, if not the very best, recording out there. The late Liszt pieces are inward reflections pointing towards abyss and heaven at the same time. This reissue represents all the Liszt that

Zimerman recorded for DG. Can he be lured back into the studio with maybe the Années de pèlerinage? We can only dream and hope! --- pianistmagazine.com

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