

Pascal Dusapin – 7 études pour piano; A Quia (2002)

Written by bluesever

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CD 1 : 7 études pour piano : 1- *Etude no 1* (11:11) 2- *Etude no 2* (05:35) 3- *Etude no 3* (09:47) 4- *Etude no 4* (04:47) 5- *Etude no 5* (11:06) 6- *Etude no 6* (05:01) 7- *Etude no 7* (08:15)
CD 2 : 1 à 3- *A quia, concerto pour piano et orchestre* (27:13)
Ian Pace - piano Orchestre de Paris
Christoph Eschenbach - conductor

The seven piano etudes and the 2002 piano concerto *A Quia* (the title comes from medieval scholarship) belong together, for Pascal Dusapin composed the studies in the late 1990s as a preparation for the orchestral work. The prevailing mood of the solo pieces is restrained and introverted, hardly virtuoso studies in the conventional sense at all. Similarly, the concerto does not conform to any of the usual expectations of what such a work should be like.

It is bleak, and unmistakably tragic, there is no sense of confrontation or display, and the emotional weight is laid on the last of the three movements, whose long, elegiac piano solo is interrupted by a vicious orchestral outburst, before being allowed to lay the work to rest. The set comes with a DVD containing interviews with the composer, and rehearsal sequences for both works, but the striking music can really be left to speak for itself. --- Andrew Clements, theguardian.com

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