

Arthur Rubinstein - A French Program (1964)

Written by bluesever

Saturday, 05 September 2015 16:05 -

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1. Ravel - *Valses nobles et sentimentales* 2. Poulenc - *Mouvements perpétuels* 2a *Assez Modere* 2b *Très Modéré* 2c *Alerte* 3. Poulenc - *Intermezzo in A-flat (1944)* 4. Ravel - *La vallée des cloches* 5. Fauré - *Nocturne in A-flat, Op.33, N°3* 6. Poulenc - *Intermezzo N°2 in D-flat* 7. Chabrier - *Scherzo-Valse* Arthur Rubinstein – piano

French piano music is doing well this month, and this admirably recorded Rubinstein disc is the more welcome for including some lesser known pieces. Chabrier and Poulenc in particular don't get recorded these days nearly as often as they deserve. I notice that not even Poulenc's *Mouvements perpétuels* are in the catalogue at the moment, which is odd, since not so long ago every pianist seemed to be playing them. The two Poulenc *Intermezzi* Rubinstein plays are welcome additions too. Chabrier on the other hand now makes a strong showing since all his piano works have been recorded for Vox by Rena Kyriakou, but none of these is available outside the format of a three-disc set; and that goes for Fauré's *Nocturnes* as well, to which only Evelyne Crochet has been giving any attention lately.

There is nothing to temper enthusiasm for this record (except surprise that no stereo version of it has been announced). Rubinstein is at his best and is a superb exponent of French music, which indeed he has been known to champion even to the extent of playing the Ravel *Valses nobles et sentimentales* as his first encore when the same piece failed to get much response in the main part of one of his public recitals. ---arkivmusic.com

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