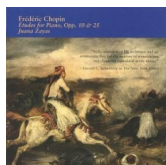


Chopin - Etudes Op. 10 & Op. 25 (Ashkenazy) [1990]

Written by bluesever

Saturday, 06 November 2010 20:22 - Last Updated Sunday, 06 October 2013 09:30

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01. Opus 10 Etude in C Major 02. Opus 10 Etude in A Minor 03. Opus 10 Etude in E Major
04. Opus 10 Etude in C-sharp Minor 05. Opus 10 Etude in G-flat Major 06. Opus 10 Etude in
E-flat Minor 07. Opus 10 Etude in C Major 08. Opus 10 Etude in F Major 09. Opus 10 Etude in
F Minor. 10. Opus 10 Etude in A-flat Major 11. Opus 10 Etude in E-flat Major 12. Opus 10
Etude in C Minor 13. Opus 25 Etude in A-flat Major 14. Opus 25 Etude in F-Minor 15. Opus 25
Etude in F Major 16. Opus 25 Etude in A Minor 17. Opus 25 Etude in E Minor 18. Opus 25
Etude in G-sharp Minor 19. Opus 25 Etude in C-sharp Minor 20. Opus 25 Etude in D-flat Major
21. Opus 25 Etude in G-flat Major 22. Opus 25 Etude in B Minor 23. Opus 25 Etude in A
Minor 24. Opus 25 Etude in C Minor 25. Trois nouvelles etudes in F Minor 26. Trois nouvelles
etudes in D-Flat Major 27. Trois nouvelles etudes in A-flat Major
Vladimir Ashkenazy – piano

How good is Vladimir Ashkenazy's 1959 and 1960 recording of both books of Chopin's Etudes, you might well ask? After all, although he had won the Chopin Competition in 1955 at the age of 18 and would go on to win the Tchaikovsky Competition in 1962, Ashkenazy was still a young man when these recordings were made and would go on to record the Etudes again in 1984 at the peak of his international career. Could this set of Etudes by the young man really compete with the mature master?

Yes, yes, yes. For all his brilliant virtuosity, a mature Ashkenazy is a more measured Ashkenazy and while his 1984 performance of the Etudes is undeniably virtuosic, it is nevertheless a restrained and reserved performance compared with the young Ashkenazy's performance. At 22, Ashkenazy tears into the Etudes with just as much virtuosity but far more fire and gusto. Again and again, one is awed by Ashkenazy's astounding power, his astonishing precision and his utterly amazing technique. But even better is the sensitivity and the soulfulness of Ashkenazy's interpretations. He goes deep beneath the virtuoso surface of the Etudes to their Romantic essence and his performances often are as moving as the greatest ever recorded.

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Melodiya's sound is gritty, raw, but real. ---James Leonard, Rovi

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