

Rafal Blechacz - Debussy & Szymanowski (2012)

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 17 June 2012 18:50 - Last Updated Monday, 31 March 2014 10:00

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01. *Pour le piano: I. Prélude* 02. *Pour le piano: II. Sarabande* 03. *Pour le piano: III. Toccata*
04. *Estampes: I. Pagodes* 05. *Estampes: II. Soirée dans Grenade* 06. *Estampes: III. Jardins sous la pluie*
07. *L'isle joyeuse* 08. *Prelude and Fugue in C-Sharp Minor: Prelude. Lento, ma non troppo, rubato*
09. *Prelude and Fugue in C-Sharp Minor: Fugue. Andante* 10. *Sonata in C Minor, Op. 8: I. Allegro moderato*
11. *Sonata in C Minor, Op. 8: II. Adagio* 12. *Sonata in C Minor, Op. 8: III. Tempo di minuetto*
13. *Sonata in C Minor, Op. 8: IV. Finale: Introduzione* 14. *Sonata in C Minor, Op. 8: IV. Finale: Fuga a tre voci*
15. *Suite bergamasque: III. Clair de lune*
Rafal Blechacz – piano

The young Polish pianist Rafal Blechacz won all five first prizes in the Warsaw Chopin piano competition in 2005 but has since been in and out of the limelight: this finely characterised recital will surely place him centre stage once more. His Debussy is transparent, pure, yet not lacking in depth, driven with impetus and excitement. The real finds here, however, are the two early works by Karol Szymanowski (before his music absorbed its full measure of folk influences): virtuoso pianism at full stretch. The influence of Liszt's Sonata is perhaps too evident in Szymanowski's last-movement fugue, but the music sustains a rugged individuality right through to the final slightly banal climax. ---Nicholas Kenyon, guardian.co.uk

"This is an unforgettable disc from one of the pianistic giants of our time." ---The Sunday Times

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