Charles-Valentin Alkan - Concerto For Solo Piano - Trois Grande Etudes (1991)



Concerto For Solo Piano Op.39

- 1. Allegro assai
- 2. Adagio
- 3. Allegretto alla barbaresca

Trois Grande Etudes Op.76

- 1. Fantaisie in A flat major (for left hand)
- 2. Introduction, Variations and Finale in D major (for right hand)
- 3. Rondo-Tocatta in C minor (for hands reunited)

Marc-Andre Hamelin – piano

Concerto for Solo Piano (French: Concerto pour piano seul) is a 3-movement solo piano piece. With sections marked "Tutti", "Solo" and "Piano", the piece requires the soloist to present the voices of both the orchestra and the soloist. The work features progressive tonality, beginning in G-sharp minor and ending in F-sharp major; this is a consequence of the piece being three consecutive elements of the cycle of 12 études, each of which is in a key a perfect fourth higher than its predecessor.

Etude, Op. 76 No. 3 is dedicated to Averil Kovacs and François Luguenot, respectively activists in the English and French Alkan Societies. As Hamelin writes in his preface to this étude, the idea to combine these came from the composer Alistair Hinton, the finale of whose Piano Sonata No. 5 (1994–95) includes a substantial section entitled "Alkanique".

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