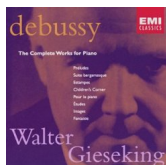


Claude Debussy – The Complete Works For Piano (Giesecking) [1997]

Wpisany przez bluesever

Środa, 24 Luty 2010 21:29 - Zmieniony Środa, 23 Październik 2013 23:15

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Disc: 1 1. *Préludes Book I: I. Danseuses de Delphes (Lent et grave)* - Walter Giesecking 2. *Préludes Book I: II. Voiles (Modéré)* - Walter Giesecking 3. *Préludes Book I: III. Le vent dans la plaine (Animé)* - Walter Giesecking 4. *Préludes Book I: IV. Les sons et les parfums tournent dans l'air du soir (Modéré)* - Walter Giesecking 5. *Préludes Book I: V. Les collines d'Anacapri (Trés modéré)* - Walter Giesecking 6. *Préludes Book I: VI. Des pas sur la neige (Triste et lent)* - Walter Giesecking 7. *Préludes Book I: VII. Ce qu'a vu le vent d'Ouest (Animé et tumultueux)* - Walter Giesecking 8. *Préludes Book I: VIII. La fille aux cheveux de lin (Trés calme et doucement expressif)* - Walter Giesecking 9. *Préludes Book I: IX. La sérénade interrompue (Modérément animé)* - Walter Giesecking 10. *Préludes Book I: X. La cathédrale engloutie (Profondément calme)* - Walter Giesecking 11. *Préludes Book I: XI. La danse de Puck (Capricieux et léger)* - Walter Giesecking 12. *Préludes Book I: XII. Minstrels (Modéré)* - Walter Giesecking 13. *Préludes Book II: I. Brouillards (Modéré)* - Walter Giesecking 14. *Préludes Book II: II. Feuilles mortes (Lent et mélancolique)* - Walter Giesecking 15. *Préludes Book II: III. La Puerta del Vino (Mouvement de Habanera)* - Walter Giesecking 16. *Préludes Book II: IV. Les fées sont d'exquises danseuses (Rapide et léger)* - Walter Giesecking 17. *Préludes Book II: V. Bruyères (Calme)* - Walter Giesecking 18. *Préludes Book II: VI. General Lavine - eccentric (Dans le style et le mouvement d'un Cakewalk)* - Walter Giesecking 19. *Préludes Book II: VII. Le terrasse des audiences du clair de lune (Lent)* - Walter Giesecking 20. *Préludes Book II: VIII. Ondine (Scherzando)* - Walter Giesecking 21. *Préludes Book II: IX. Hommage à S. Pickwick, Esq., P.P.M.P.C. (Grave)* - Walter Giesecking 22. *Préludes Book II: X. Canope (Trés calme et doucement triste)* - Walter Giesecking 23. *Préludes Book II: XI. Les tierces alternées (Modérément animé)* - Walter Giesecking 24. *Préludes Book II: XII. Feux d'artifice (Modérément animé)* - Walter Giesecking

Disc: 2 1. *Pour le piano: I. Prélude (Assez anime et tres rythme)* - C. Debussy 2. *Pour le piano: II. Sarabande (Aved une elegance grave et lente)* - C. Debussy 3. *Pour le piano: III. Toccata (Vif)* - C. Debussy 4. *Estampes: I. Pagodes (Moderement anime)* - C. Debussy 5. *Estampes: II. La soirée dans Grenade (Mouvement de Habanera)* - C. Debussy 6. *Estampes: III. Jardins sous la pluie (Net et vif)* - C. Debussy 7. *Images, Set I: I. Reflets dans l'eau (Andantino molto)* - C. Debussy 8. *Images, Set I: II. Hommage à Rameau (Lent et grave)* - C. Debussy 9. *Images, Set I: III. Mouvement (Anime)* - C. Debussy 10. *Images, Set II: I. Cloches à travers les feuilles (Lent)* - C. Debussy 11. *Images, Set II: II. Et la lune descend sur le temple qui fut (Lent)* - C. Debussy 12. *Images, Set II: III. Poissons d'or (Anime)* - C. Debussy 13. *Children's Corner: I. Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum (Moderement anime)* - C. Debussy 14. *Children's Corner: II. Jimbo's Lullaby (Assez modere)* - C. Debussy 15. *Children's Corner: III. Serenade for the Doll (Allegretto ma non troppo)* - C.

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Debussy 16. *Children's Corner: IV. The Snow is Dancing (Moderement anime)* - C. Debussy
17. *Children's Corner: X. The Little Shepherd (Tres modere)* - C. Debussy 18. *Children's
Corner: VI. Golliwogg's Cakewalk (Allegro giusto)* - C. Debussy

Disc: 3

1. *12 Etudes: I. Pour les cinq doigts (d'apres Monsieur Czerny) (Sagement)* - C. Debussy 2. *12
Etudes: II. Pour les tierces (Moderato, ma non troppo)* - C. Debussy 3. *12 Etudes: III. Pour les
quartes (Andantino com moto)* - C. Debussy 4. *12 Etudes: IV. Pour les sixtes (Lento)* - C.
Debussy 5. *12 Etudes: V. Pour les octaves (Joyeux et emporte, librement rythme)* - C.
Debussy 6. *12 Etudes: VI. Pour les huit doigts (Vivamente, molto leggiero e legato)* - C.
Debussy 7. *12 Etudes: VII. Pour les degrés chromatiques (Scherzando, animato assai)* - C.
Debussy 8. *12 Etudes: VIII. Pour les agréments (Lento, rubato e leggiero)* - C. Debussy 9. *12
Etudes: IX. Pour les notes répétées (Scherzando)* - C. Debussy 10. *12 Etudes: X. Pour les
sonorités opposées (Modere, sans lenteur)* - C. Debussy 11. *12 Etudes: XI. Pour les arpèges
composés (Dolce e lusingando)* - C. Debussy 12. *12 Etudes: XI. Pour les accords (Dedide,
rythme, sans lourdeur)* - C. Debussy 13. *Masques (Tres vif et fantasque)* - C. Debussy 14.
D'un cahier d'esquisses (Tres lent-sans rigueur) - C. Debussy 15. *L'Isle joyeuse (Quasi una
cadenza - Tempo : Modere et tres souple)* - C. Debussy 16. *La plus que lente (Lent - Molto
rubato con morbidezza)* - C. Debussy 17. *Le petit negre (Cakewalk. Allegro giusto)* - C.
Debussy 18. *Berceuse heroique (Modere - sans lenteur)* - C. Debussy 19. *Hommage à Haydn
(Mouvement de Valse lente)* - C. Debussy

Disc: 4

1. *Suite Bergamasque: I. Prélude (Moderato - tempo rubato)* - C. Debussy 2. *Suite
Bergamasque: II. Meneut (Andantino)* - C. Debussy 3. *Suite Bergamasque: III. Clair de lune
(Andante tres expressif)* - C. Debussy 4. *Suite Bergamasque: IV. Passepied (Allegretto ma non
troppo)* - C. Debussy 5. *Danse bohémienne (Allegro)* - C. Debussy 6. *Rêverie (Andantino sans
lenteur)* - C. Debussy 7. *Mazurka (Scherzando - assez anime)* - C. Debussy 8. *Valse
romantique (Tempo di valse - Allegro moderato)* - C. Debussy 9. *Deux Arabesques: I.
Andantino com moto* - C. Debussy 10. *Deux Arabesques: II. Allegretto scherzando* - C.
Debussy 11. *Nocturne en re bemol majeur - in D flat - Des-dur* - C. Debussy 12. *Danse
(Tarentelle styrienne) (Allegretto)* - C. Debussy 13. *Ballade (Andantino com moto)* - C. Debussy
14. *Fantaisie For Piano And Orchestra: I. Andante - Allegro* - C. Debussy 15. *Fantaisie For
Piano And Orchestra: II. Lento e molto espressivo-* - C. Debussy 16. *Fantaisie For Piano And
Orchestra: III. Allegro molto* - C. Debussy

Walter Giesecking – piano Recorded 1951-55 in London and 1951 in Frankfurt. Digitally
remastered 1995.

Certain creators and re-creators become synonymous. Beethoven and Schnabel, Chopin and Rubinstein at once spring to mind. Yet in the entire history of performance I doubt whether there has ever existed a more subtle or golden thread than that between Debussy and Giesecking. French jibes about the reduction of Debussy's clarity to a charming but essentially decorative opalescence are little more than the bitter fruit of envy, of an exclusivity, that finds a German pianist's supreme mastery of their greatest composer's elusive heart and idiom hard to stomach.

Giesecking's insight and iridescence in Debussy are so compelling and hypnotic that they prompt either a book or a blank page — an unsatisfactory state where criticism or assessment is concerned! So let me, in the limited space available, shuttle from the general to the local or particular and vice versa. First and foremost, there is Giesecking's sonority, one of such delicacy and variety that it can complement Debussy's witty and ironic desire to write music "for an instrument without hammers", for a pantheistic art sufficiently suggestive to evoke and transcend the play of the elements themselves ("the wind, the sky, the sea ..."). Who but Giesecking could conjure such stillness in the closing bars of "Reflets dans l'eau" (Images, Book 1)? Here the ripples move outward from the centre, a haunting and mysterious memory of former hyperactivity (dans une sonrite harmonieuse et lointaine). From Giesecking "Des pas sur la neige" (Preludes, Book I) hints at an ultimate negation, of someone who can both poignantly and impassively regard "the nothing that is not and the nothing that is" — a true mind of winter. Lack of meticulousness seems a small price to pay for such an elemental uproar in "Ce qu'a vu le vent d'Ouest", and Puck's elfin pulse and chatter (pp aërian) are caught with an uncanny deftness and precision. The final Debussian magic may not lie in a literal observance of the score, in the unfailing dotting and crossing of every objective and picturesque instruction, yet it is surely the start or foundation of a great performance. Listen to the start of "Canope" (Preludes, Book 2) and you will note Giesecking's fidelity to pianissimo, piano and hairpin decrescendo, *p*iet piano, hairpin decrescendo and pianissimo, all within five bars, complemented by a finespun texturing of chords that penetrates to the very core of this mysterious, near minimalist utterance.

More domestically, no one (not even Cortot) has ever captured the sense in Children's Corner of a lost and enchanted land, of childhood reexperienced through adult tears and laughter. Giesecking's *moderee* in "Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum" ensures that everything has time to 'tell' or signify. Here, Chouchou is presented as a serious little girl concerned with playing beautifully rather than getting through her practice as soon as possible. "Jimbo's lullaby", too, is no mere heavyweight, but a wistful animal lost in reflection (his lot as a woollen rather than a real elephant, perhaps?).

In the seemingly slighter and evanescent early works — in *Danse bohémienne*, with its touch of vaudeville, *Reverie* and *Mazurka* — there is a luminous fragility and pinpoint delicacy that lift such music on to a plane that would have surely astonished Debussy himself. And here, in particular, Giesecking's magic lies in infinitesimal shadings rather than in heavy-handed rubato or distortion. His *Suite bergamasque* is a true pastoral idyll with a "Clair de lune" as shimmering and entranced as any on record (listen to the section commencing *tempo rubato* at 104" and you will hear chording balanced and textured from the top to perfection).

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"Pour les tierces", from the Etudes, may get off to a shaky start but, again, in Debussy's final masterpiece, where pragmatism is resolved into a fantasy undreamed of even by Chopin, Giesecking's artistry tugs at and haunts the imagination. Try "Pour les sonorites opposees", the nodal and expressive centre of the Etudes, and you may well wonder when you have heard playing more subtly gauged or articulated, or the sort of interaction with a composer's spirit that can make modern alternatives, by Pollini for example, seem so parsimonious by comparison.

So here is that peerless palette of colour and texture, of a light and shade used with a nonchalantly deployed but precise expertise to illuminate every facet of Debussy's teeming and insinuating imagination. An added bonus, a 1951 performance of the Fantaisie for piano and orchestra (an ecstatic and scintillating work, played here with a lifeaffirming chiaroscuro) completes an incomparable set of discs. Andrew Walter's transfers are a triumph, with an immediacy much less obvious in the originals. These records should be in every musician's library, be they singer or conductor, violinist or pianist, etc. If Gramophone believed in a starring system they would deserve a heavenful of stars. --- Gramophone [6/1996]

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