

Franz Liszt - Piano Sonata in B minor (Arrau) [1971]

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1. *Lento assai - Allegro energico* 3:20 2. *Grandioso - Recitativo* 9:26 3. *Andante sostenuto* - 8:20 4. *Allegro energico - Andante sostenuto - Lento assai* 11:08 Claudio Arrau – piano

The Liszt Sonata represents a bigger challenge in every sense, of course. Arrau was very committed to Liszt's cause and he played the piece a great deal around this time, touring it throughout Europe (as I remember from personal experience; the only time I heard him play). His view of the music is thoughtful and beautifully judged in dynamics, phrasing and tempi. Not that power is lacking, it emerges most naturally in the logical context of this great, powerfully built, composition. There may be other views of this music which are more outwardly brilliant, and I salute them, but Arrau has a command all of his own. In this sense hearing a live performance, with all its special tensions, remains a special experience. --- Terry Barfoot, musicweb-international.com

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