

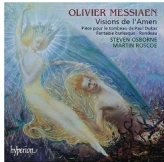
## Messiaen - Visions De L'amen (2004)

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Poniedziałek, 11 Listopad 2019 15:39 -

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Visions De L'Amen, For Two Pianos (1943) 1 *Amen De La Création* 6:31 2 *Amen Des Étoiles, De La Planète À L'Anneau* 5:18 3 *Amen De L'Agonie De Jésus* 8:11 4 *Amen Du Désir* 11:18 5 *Amen Des Anges, Des Saints, Du Chant Des Oiseaux* 6:43 6 *Amen Du Jugement* 2:53 7 *Amen De La Consummation* 6:20 8 *Pièce Pour Le Tombeau De Paul Dukas* 3:55 9 *Rondeau* 2:20 10 *Fantaisie Burlesque* 6:57  
Steven Osborne - piano (1 - 10) Martin Roscoe - piano (1 - 7)

Steven Osborne has already made his name as an outstanding interpreter of Messiaen with his ecstatic recording of the *Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant Jésus* (Hyperion, CDA67351/2), which was described by Gramophone as 'one of Hyperion's finest piano recordings—quite an achievement in a catalogue of outstanding piano discs'. Here he is joined by Martin Roscoe in an equally revelatory account of Messiaen's other great religious piano cycle, this time for two pianos, the *Visions de l'Amen*, composed a year before *Vingt Regards* in 1943. Their combination of emotional power, religious austerity, keyboard colour and dazzling pyrotechnics makes for an overwhelming and physically exhilarating experience. The listener is given an insight to what it must have been like to have heard the premiere of this work, played by Messiaen with his future wife, the immensely gifted 19-year-old Yvonne Loriod, to a strictly invited audience in Occupied Paris.

Steven Osborne plays three solo pieces to complete the disc. The *Rondeau* was composed at the same time as *Visions de l'Amen*, but is much less musically (although no less technically) ambitious. The other two pieces were composed in the 1930s, one in a more light-hearted vein, the other a contribution to a memorial volume for Paul Dukas, who died in 1935.

---hyperion-records.co.uk

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Steven Osborne continues his enthralling performances of Messiaen's piano works, with Martin Roscoe joining him for the two-piano *Visions de l'Amen*. The two of them are flawlessly matched in their strength, control, and range of expression, even though for much of the work the two piano parts are largely independent. They move together from twinkling, distant starlight passages to powerful, brilliant solar flare-like passages. Osborne and Roscoe, although painting large pictures in the seven movements, demand that attention be paid to the details in the music. The "Amen du désir" has such a soft, quiet opening, it brings to mind the watercolors of Debussy's music, and later in the same movement the percussion of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* is also present. It's an engrossing performance of an engrossing piece. Three small, solo pieces of Messiaen's fill out the disc. The *Pièce pour le tombeau de Paul Dukas* is solemn, but not somber until the end, and Osborne gives its block chords a monumental weightiness, suggesting a double entendre in the title. The *Rondeau* is less complex and far-reaching than Messiaen's larger works, but still has that visionary wonder and joy. The final *Fantaisie burlesque* has interesting episodes, but the humorous, jazzy refrain gets old fast, despite Osborne's trying to keep it light. ---Patsy Morita, AllMusic Review

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