



Information



Catalogue No.	ES 2040
Title	Opus Posthum - Early Piano works of Alexander & Julian Scriabin
Repertoire	Alexander Scriabin: Valse D flat major 1886 and G sharp minor 1886, Mazurka B minor 1889, F major 1889 and B minor 1886 (Appendix), Nocturne A flat major 1884-1885, Sonata-Fantaisie G sharp minor 1886, Feuillet d'album de Monighetti 1889, Scherzo E flat major 1886* and A flat major 1886*, Piano piece B flat minor 1887*, Variations sur un thème de M-lle Egoroff f-Moll 1887, Sonata E flat minor 1887-1889, Fuge (à 4) F minor 1888, Fuge (à 5) E minor 1892, Etude D sharp minor Op. 8 No.12 Alternate Version 1894-95, Canon D minor 1883, Feuille d'album F sharp major 1900 - Julian Scriabin: Prelude Op. 2 1918, Two Preludes Op. 3, Prelude 1919 (*First recording)
Artist	Maria Lettberg, Piano
Release	Nov. 2012, Digipak, 24 pages
Text by	Maria Lettberg
Languages	german, english, french
Co-Producer	Deutschlandradio Kultur
Recommendation	Track 1, 9, 11, 13, 22

"Five years ago, I produced a recording of all piano pieces with opus numbers by Alexander Scriabin. I had studied 8 CDs, 207 pieces and 8 hours of music, which I had played in concerts and ultimately recorded. It was both a wonderful, yet crazy period – „Pure Scriabin“, an unfathomable journey through the microcosm of his creation. You can lose yourself in this world full of temptations. Sometimes I felt like I was becoming a kind of „stalker“ like in Andrei Tarkovsky's film, but instead of the „Zone“, I was being drawn into Scriabin's music. [...] You can take detours to tap into Scriabin's music, but then it gets under your skin, makes you high like a drug, makes you euphoric, addicted and ... happy."

Maria Lettberg

In the complete recording the artist's early works without opus numbers were absent. Then Maria Lettberg took a serious interest in those pieces too and has recorded them with ES-DUR in collaboration with the Deutschlandradio Kultur radio station. Scriabin started composing music at a very young age. Between 1885 and 1889 he kept a catalogue of his works in one of his sketch pads, in which around 50 musical pieces are listed. Scriabin later revised and released some of these works; while others were only published after his death and many have been lost. The question of why the composer did not publish these works can be answered relatively easily: His compositional style simply developed too quickly during this period. From a traditional, romantic lyrical style Scriabin developed his own unique, modern, symbolist approach, and in the composer's harmonious compositions he emancipated the dissonance.

In addition to fugues, waltzes and initial early sonata settings, this CD also includes three first-time recordings of works that were first edited in 1997: the two scherzos and the B minor piano piece. The two scherzos from the year 1886 are the only representatives of that particular genre in Scriabin's creative works. The B minor piano piece from 1887, with its light-hearted, playful character, could also be described as a type of scherzo. For a long time the autograph score, which stops after 92 bars and is considered incomplete, was ignored. However, it is possible to complete the missing four bars analogous to the beginning of the piece and discover a real jewel in Scriabin's oeuvre.

Alexander Scriabin and Tatjana Schlözer's son Julian Scriabin started composing music early in life too. Before he drowned in the River Dnieper in tragic, unexplained circumstances at the age of eleven years, he had been the youngest and yet most talented pupil at the Kiev Conservatory. The atmosphere of the four preludes is melancholy and mystical, very similar to his father's post-Prometheus style. It is still not clear if the pieces were actually written by the son or if they, in fact, come from unpublished sketchbooks of Alexander's.

Maria Lettberg is one of Europe's most exciting pianists. The Riga-born Swedish citizen currently lives in Berlin. Her talent was recognised and encouraged early on, and after attending the main Latvian school for musically gifted children she went straight to the St. Petersburg Conservatory for further studies. Important teachers included Andrej Gavrillov, Paul Badura-Skoda and Menahem Pressler.

Lettberg plays on a Bechstein D grand piano. Whether he was in Germany, Russia or England, Scriabin was always provided with Bechstein grand pianos, and such a piano, given to the Scriabin company as a gift, still takes pride of place in the study of the composer's Moscow apartment. The warm sound and lightness of a Bechstein is excellently suited to Scriabin's music. A music which achieves a truly authentic sound in this recording thanks to the piano's favourable characteristics.

To avoid missing your review due to the sheer wealth of current media offerings, please send us a copy directly. Thank you!



ES-DUR is a label of
C2 Hamburg. Musik & Medienproduktion | Arnoldstr. 26-30 F | 22765 Hamburg
www.c2hamburg.de | info@c2hamburg.de | Tel. +49 40 39909597 | Fax +49 40 396735

Distribution Germany, Austria, Switzerland **EDEL Germany GmbH** | Neumühlen 17 | 22763 Hamburg
www.edel.com | Tel. +49 40 89085 191 | Fax +49 40 890859 191