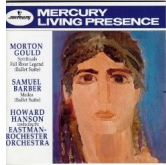


Gould – Spirituals, Fall River Legend; Barber – Medea (1991)

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 08 February 2015 16:57 -

Gould – Spirituals, Fall River Legend; Barber – Medea (1991)



Morton Gould - Spirituals In Five Movements 1 *Proclamation* 5:02 2 *Sermon* 3:43 3 *A Little Bit Of Sin* 3:43 4 *Protest* 3:08 5 *Jubilee* 4:22
Morton Gould - Fall River Legend (Ballet Suite)
6 *Prologue And Waltzes* 3:30 7 *Elegy* 2:55 8 *Church Social* 4:02 9 *Hymnal Variations* 3:57 10 *Cotillion* 3:31 11 *Epilogue* 2:39
Samuel Barber - Medea (Ballet Suite)
12 *Parodos* 2:29 13 *Choros. Medea And Jason* 4:01 14 *The Young Princess. Jason* 3:03
15 *Choros* 3:10 16 *Medea* 6:20 17 *Kantikos Agonias* 2:57 18 *Exodos* 3:03
The Eastman-Rochester Orchestra Howard Hanson – conductor

The disc gives us Morton Gould's Spirituals of which there are five. Gould manages to blend gorgeous liquidity of string lines with a pungent syntax which, for all the searing and occasional brashness, always roots these studies in seriousness. Yes, there's the easeful charm of the Sermon and also the "pizz and percussion" snap of A Little Bit Of Sin but the Protest reasserts deeper significance before allowing the open air Jubilee to run riot; just a touch too much cow-pokery, perhaps. The full Fall River Legend ballet music has recently been recorded by Naxos but here we get the far more familiar concert suite, cast in six movements. The Church Social remains a high point of Hanson's conducting, the Copland hues studded throughout never thoughtlessly brought forward, but rather adding their own layer of influence to those of the hymnal and the wistful abstraction Gould so richly evokes. Barber's Medea appropriately carries on the ballet theme and fuses rhythmic verve with the romantic impress of The Young Princess, the crypto-cinematic with the spare reflectiveness of Kantikos Agonias. --- Jonathan Woolf, musicweb-international.com

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