Alkan - Symphony for solo piano (Hamelin) [2001]

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Czwartek, 12 Lipiec 2012 18:42 - Zmieniony Czwartek, 08 Sierpień 2013 19:09

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Symphony For Solo Piano Op 39 Nos 4-7 (26:06) *1 Allegro 10:29   2 Marche Funèbre: Andantino 6:06   3 Menuet 5:05   4 Finale: Presto 4:20   - 5 Salut, Cendre Du Pauvre! Op 45 8:40   6 Alleluia Op 25 2:40   7 Super Flumina Babylonis Op 52 (Paraphrase Du Psaume 137) 6:30*   Souvenirs: Trois Morceaux Dans Le Genre Pathétique Op 15 (29:56)
8 Aime-Moi 10:06   9 Le Vent 7:24   10 Morte 12:22
Marc-André Hamelin – piano

Alkan's one of music's originals, a relatively neglected composer valued for his highly original, often visionary keyboard works accessible only to the most skilled virtuosos. Marc-André Hamelin certainly fills that bill and almost outdoes himself on this disc, playing with breathtaking virtuosity and imaginative insight. The Symphony for solo piano is just a four-movement work of symphonic scope and color. The opening Allegro is a tightly structured drama, followed by a Mahlerian funeral march, a vigorous scherzo, and a final blistering Presto dispatched by Hamelin with almost supernatural ease. The Symphony was part of an even bigger work, the Opus 39 Études, whose 12 pieces include Alkan's best music. The three brief pieces that follow have strong attractions, deep spirituality prime among them. The final three pieces from his early Opus 15 set exemplify Alkan the Romantic. Again, Hamelin makes light of their technical difficulties, while shaping them sensitively. Notable are Le vent, where the right-hand runs make you hear the whistling wind and Morte, another powerful funeral march. Vivid sound captures Hamelin's nuanced playing, helping to make this disc a must-have for pianophiles. ---Dan Davis, Editorial Reviews

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