

Debussy Première Suite d'Orchestre & La mer – François-Xavier Roth conducts Les Siècles [Les Siècles Live]

Reviewed by: Colin Anderson



Debussy
Première Suite
d'Orchestre
La mer – three
symphonic sketches

Les Siècles
François-Xavier Roth

Suite recorded 2
February in Cité de la
musique, Paris & 13
October 2012 at
abbaye de
Royaumont; La mer
recorded 13 April
2012 in Accademia
Nazionale di Santa
Cecilia, Rome

CD Number
LES SIÈCLES
LIVE/ACTES SUD
MUSICALES ASM10

Duration
51 minutes

Review Date
October 2013



This first recording of Debussy's Première Suite d'Orchestre proves a good find, the music recognisably French and pleasurable on its own terms for its appealing melodies, lightness of touch and colourful orchestration, displaying something of Chabrier, Delibes and Massenet at times, and none the worse for that. It's a student work composed while Debussy (1862-1918) was at the Paris Conservatoire. If an individual voice is yet to be fully discerned, there are certain details, harmonies and phrases that do suggest him. At 28 minutes or so the Suite is quite substantial, the third-movement 'Rêve' being especially atmospheric and suggestive, really quite lovely. It's scoring has been completed by Philippe Manoury, very sympathetically. The other movements, in order of appearance, are 'Fête', 'Ballet' and 'Cortège et Bacchanale', the latter being the longest section, nearly ten minutes, and ceremonial and dreamy by turns. The virtuoso and sensitive members of Les Siècles, utilising instruments contemporary with the time of the composition, under François-Xavier Roth give an exemplary performance of this virtually unknown work, only catalogued in 1977 as a reduction for piano, the orchestral score then believed to be lost.

Similar details to period niceties inform La mer, one of Debussy's greatest creations, written between 1903 and 1905. The musicians of Les Siècles use gut strings, characterful woodwinds and lower-volume, softer-grained, yet raspy when needed brass; and they all make an invaluable contribution. Not only do these specific timbres illuminate the music in a special way but there is an internal clarity that falls naturally when the instruments are so closely matched as well as being so distinctive. The result is revealingly pellucid. Roth has the measure of this wonderful music, pacing it ideally, building and relaxing tension in just the right places. The second-movement 'Play of the Waves' is both flexible and deft, and there is plenty of tension in the finale, 'Dialogue of the Wind and the Sea', and power when required (although not the *ad lib* brass fanfares, unfortunately). To get an idea of how this music originally sounded, and what Debussy might have expected, is tangible here and makes for enlightening listening. The recordings (two works in three locations!) are uniformly good and capture the smallest detail.

- www.lessiecles.com

Comments

[Login](#)

[Printer Friendly View](#)

There are no comments posted yet. Be the first one!

Post a new comment

Check Spelling

Comment as a Guest, or login:

Name

Email

Displayed next to your comments.

Not displayed publicly.

Subscribe to

Click Here
to continue

Why Donate?

Important Notice
Keeping looking here for important messages about the site including latest updates

Piano
www.bion-piano.com
300 Pianos en expo
à partir de 600€
Livraison et SAV
France entière

Nexus 7 dès 229€
play.google.com
Une résolution
inégalée, un écran
magnifique.
Commandez-la

Large Choix d'Eviers
www.LeGuide.com/E...
Tous Les Eviers Sont Ici Cherchez & Achetez A Prix Malin