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Elisabeth Schwarzkopf interprets songs by Wolf, Schubert, Strauss, Purcell, Arne & Quilter

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International Record Review (Roger Pines - 01.09.2009)

RECORD REVIEW

At the time of that rally, Elisabeth Schwarzkopf was at the beginning of her illustrious career. Twenty years later, long an established 'star', she gave a recital for RIAS Berlin with Michael Raucheisen, whose star had faded by then. Eight Wolf songs lead the way, with three by Strauss, two of Schubert's Italian settings and four English pieces following. Whether one feels that Schwarzkopf is often arch and coy, one cannot deny that she brings a range of nuances to her singing. Listen to the different colours in Wolf's 'Epiphanias' (Goethe Lieder) with its mixture of pomp and humour or compare the exuberant tones of Schubert's Vedi quanto adoro with the restrained elegance of Purcell's 'Music for a while' and both with the airiness of 'Where the bee sucks'. Savour if you will the delicious rise to and placement of the second syllable of 'thereon' in Drink to me only: gorgeous. The soon-to-retire Raucheisen plays his part (in both senses) very well. The sound is extremely good.

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