Edvard Grieg: Complete Symphonic Works Vol. III

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Fanfare (Peter Burwasser - 10.02.2014)

Somehow I missed the second volume of this survey of the complete works of Grieg with these forces, but my comments on volume one can be repeated here. In short, this is a complete winner. As popular as Grieg is, a handful of his most popular music tends to get recorded over and over again, but he was an extremely prolific and long-lived composer, and a consistently excellent one. His extended oeuvre is well worth exploring. His orchestration skills were as sophisticated as any of his celebrated late 19th-century contemporaries, and his melodic gifts were seemingly inexhaustible.

These performances are excellent. Violinist turned conductor Aadland conducts with verve and a good ear for color and texture, and the Cologne ensemble is gutsy more so than it is polished, a quality which fits the music beautifully. The icing on the cake is Audite's superb SACD recording, which bursts out of my stereo in excitingly realistic sound. Yes, I like this series. Treat yourself.

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