Annie Fischer plays Schumann: Piano Concerto, Op. 54 - Leon Fleisher plays Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 2

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Gramophone (Rob Cowan - 01.02.2016)

GRAMOPHONE

Pianists live in Lucerne

I was delighted to encounter Audite's CD of a riveting Lucerne Festival performance of Schumann's Piano Concerto by Annie Fischer with the Philharmonia under Carlo Maria Giulini (more assertive than the commercial version she made with Klemperer). Forceful, cleanly articulated and with a poetically charged Intermezzo, it's a performance that shows Fischer to have been a notably strong, intellectual player. The coupling finds Leon Fleisher tackling Beethoven's Fourth Concerto with George Szell conducting the Swiss Festival Orchestra. A good pairing for Fischer's Schumann, this: both players are well equipped technically and musically compelling. Good, forwardly-balanced mono sound throughout.

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