



Franz Schubert: Late Piano Works, Vol. 3

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This is the final volume of these fantastic sonatas. They are also magnificently played by this Italian pianist, who has given us a three-disc series that grows in stature with repeated hearings.

It was a bold move on Schubert's part to follow the long, concentrated, and deeply moving 'Molto Moderato E Cantabile' opening movement of Sonata D 894 with an 'Andante' slow movement. That it works is testament to the intensity of Schubert's creativity. Lucchesini is a master of every gesture and produces a beguilingly crystalline tone without forcing his sound. The final two movements hold one's attention with their natural flow of dynamics.

The same can be said for D 958. I was forced to listen again to the other CD of this series in my collection, and I decided that purchasing the remaining disc would be a must. The Steinway D sounds terrific, and it remains difficult to accept that this life-affirming music has only emerged from the shadows during my lifetime.

SCHUBERT: Piano Sonatas in G, D 894; C minor, D 958
Andrea Lucchesini—Audite 97767—74 minutes

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