Fairy Tale Pictures - Masterworks for Viola and Piano

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Vidor Nagy is the principal violist of the Wurttemberg Orchestra in Stuttgart. He is originally from Budapest, and his playing has many characteristics I associate with excellent Hungarian playing. Though it is by no means weak, Nagy's lyrical playing has a light touch and a soft-spoken vocal quality. I very much like the way he plays the Märchenbilder and admire the way he gives the low register sextuplets in III a fanciful and almost ponticello quality.

It is nice to hear the Rebecca Clarke sonata played in a delicate and rhapsodic style and with a little bit of Hungarian accent, especially in II. I also like the intimacy of the Kodaly Adagio, a piece from 1905 written in a dreamy romantic style.

The Bartok Romanian Rhapsody is a transcription from the original for violin and piano written in 1928 and based on Bartok's own transcription for cello and piano.

The Suite Populaire Espagnole is based on a transcription that Falla made for cello and piano of what were originally six songs. Aside from a somewhat lackluster ending, much of the suite works quite well for viola.

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