



Béla Bartók: Piano Works

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CD Compact noviembre 2009 (Benjamín Fontvella - 2009.11.01)

Para quienes (como este servidor) consideran a Bartók un músico de igual...

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Der Reinbeker 17. Mai 2010, Nr. 9 (Peter Steder - 2010.05.17)



Jazz und Klassik

Jazz und Klassik

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Diverdi Magazin 188 / enero 2010 (Ignacio González Pintos - 2010.01.01)

DIVERDI.COM

Festival Bartók

Gran acercamiento de Nicolás Bringuier al piano del húngaro

El catálogo para piano solo de Béla Bartók refleja el estilo ecléctico y personal del compositor húngaro, un universo capaz de concentrar sensuales ecos impresionistas, elegantes modales modernistas, vivos ritmos populares, aullidos expresionistas o delicadas meditaciones nocturnas. Todo desde un piano brillante, percutido, de poderosa energía rítmica y enorme fuerza interior, justo lo que nos ofrece la modélica interpretación de Nicolás Bringuier. Al margen del dominio sobre el golpeo y la resonancia, buena parte del éxito reside en la sobriedad de un planteamiento que resiste la tentación de extremar unos contrastes evidentes con su sola exposición. Bringuier no exagera ni busca grandes efectos y el resultado es, precisamente, espectacular en esa prudente rectitud – acertadísima, por ejemplo, la solución a los sucesivos tiempos lentos de las Cuatro Lamentaciones op. 9a, ejemplar también la exactitud de tempi en las ocho Improvisaciones sobre canciones campesinas húngaras op. 20. Un discurso de pulso exacto, firme y constante, cuyo rigor aumenta el atractivo de las piezas, con admirables progresiones en las que el

sonido se acumula sin resultar masivo, mostrando siempre una económica habilidad narrativa; qué poco le hace falta a Bringuier para levantar el vuelo de las Danzas rumanas op. 8a. En el año 1926 Bartók se vio en la necesidad de ampliar su repertorio pianístico para ofrecer conciertos públicos, y de ese empeño surgen unas cuantas obras fundamentales de su catálogo como *Ai aire libre*, la pieza sobre la que gravita el repertorio de este disco. Bringuier se enfrenta con energía y vigor a las asimetrías de la escritura, recreándose lo justo en la delicadeza de su música nocturna. Un soberbio ejercicio de estilo que termina con una sólida, imponente lectura de la Sonata, otra de las obras mayores del autor.

[Fanfare](#) Issue 33:6 (July/Aug 2010) (James H. North - 2010.07.01)

fanfare

The Two Romanian Dances is major Bartók: an *Allegro Vivace* lasting a full five minutes, and a *Poco Allegro* of four. In dazzling performances, Nicolas Bringuier, born in Nice and not yet 30, makes the sparks fly—without ever seeming to rush. His instrument, a Shigeru Kawai (previously unknown to me), has a dryer, tighter tone than most grand pianos, which suits this music well, pointing up the asperity that Bartók carried over from his folk sources. Performances by Loránt Szűcs in Hungaroton's Bartók Complete Edition have more local color but nevertheless pale by comparison. Bringuier and his instrument serve the *Dirges* equally well, allowing generous use of the sustaining pedal without spreading or romanticizing the music. This time Szűcs is bland, characterless.

In *Out of Doors*, it is Bringuier who suffers by comparison, lacking both the imagination and potency of Murray Perahia on a Sony disc as well as the subtle touch of Erzsébet Tusa for Hungaroton. Reverberant recorded sound (from *Jesus-Christus-Kirche*, Berlin) doesn't help Bringuier, blurring some of the most rapid passages. One of the composer's most distinctive piano works comes across as rather ordinary. The magic is back in the eight *Improvisations* (by the composer, not the pianist), subtle pieces that require careful attention to mood and much *rubato*. Perhaps Bringuier is best suited to music that does not rely on great virtuosity; the recorded sound certainly serves better at less than *presto*.

Bringuier's *Sonata* is on a par with Perahia's, but both are blown away by a stunning 1980 live performance by Yuri Egorov in the Concertgebouw (Canal Grande CG 9214). His *allegro* movements have unmatched excitement, and his daringly slow tempo in the *Sostenuto e peasants* is mesmerizing. That performance is one of many that made the short-lived Egorov my favorite pianist.

The SACD layer produces smoother, rounder piano tone, but doesn't help the reverberation—nor does surround sound. I prefer the edgier CD, on which the piano is better able to cut through the reverb. There is some fine playing here, keenly attuned to Bartók's idiom, but some of the performances are not up to the best available.

Fono Forum Dezember 2009 (Ingo Harden - 2009.11.11)

FONO FORUM
KLASSIK JAZZ HIFI

Gemischt

Nach seinem Schumann-Recital legt Audite mit dem 29-jährigen Nicolas Bringuier jetzt eine Bartók-Auswahl vor, die nach einigen frühen Stücken mit der Sammlung "Im Freien", den Improvisationen und der Sonate 1926 drei repräsentative Werke zusammenfasst. Manuell ist Bringuier absolut kompetent, musikalisch sind die Eindrücke gemischer. Es fehlt nicht selten an Intensität und überzeugendem Aufbau der Melodik, und auch die rhythmische Attacke fällt weniger prickelnd aus als bei Vorgängern wie Foldes oder Kocsis. Zu einem guten Teil liegt das allerdings wohl auch an dem nicht gerade freien Klang.

Gramophone November 2009, Page 80 (Rob Cowan - 2009.11.01)

GRAMOPHONE
THE WORLD'S BEST CLASSICAL MUSIC REVIEWS

Effective and elastic Bartok from a pianist who's always alive to colour

Two of the pianists who Nicolas Bringuier has learnt from in masterclasses are Dimitri Bashkirov and Oleg Maisenberg, gifted colourists whose influences seem to find their way into this tonally varied and musically strong recital. The two Romanian Dances are relatively early works, the first and most Lisztian in spirit assertive and improvisatory, the second more like a playful burlesque. Bringuier's brightly buoyed performances are bang on the nail whereas his subtle sense of colour works well in the Four Dirges, again early works, the second of them better known in its orchestral guise as one of the Hungarian Sketches. There were times when I found Bringuier's approach to Out of Doors – one of Bartok's mature masterpieces – a little too free, the pounding "Pipes and Drums" of the opening losing something through excessive flexibility though the murmuring "Night Music" fourth movement, which is sustained at a fairly slow tempo, is hypnotically effective.

Bringuier is at his best wherever Bartok cues rubato, as he does on two occasions in the Improvisations on Hungarian Peasant Songs (the third and seventh variations). The monolithic Piano Sonata refuses to slip OTT, although there's a strong musical argument for taking a more measured than usual approach to the opening Allegro moderato. The work emerges as less granitic than in the hands of some others, its bald central movement more sostenuto than pesante (heavy, weighty), though the motorised "folky" finale goes very well. What we get here is a more elastic, less relentless Bartok than has become the norm in recent years, thoroughly enjoyable on its own terms, but with Kocsis, Sandor, Jando and – hopefully before long via reissues – Foldes on the books, not a front-runner.

International Record Review October 2009 (Mark Tanner - 2009.10.01)



Bartók

Not yet 30 years of age, French pianist Nicolas Bringuier brings a vivacity to his performances that connects compellingly with the music of Bartók. While this repertoire is most emphatically not the sole province of young male pianists, it would be hard to resist Bringuier's razor-sharp facility and comparably penetrating vision – absolute prerequisites for tackling these wonderful pieces. As Wolfgang Rathert, author of the especially motivating booklet notes rightly reminds us, even today Bartók rarely receives the comprehensive appraisal he deserves. He permeated giddy intellectual spheres of musicology, as well as more traditional avenues of intellectual pursuit – and, of course, pure pianism itself – indeed, extending far further than his much-lauded foraging for Hungarian (and even Romanian and Arabic) nationalistic traits. It was the composer's immutably determined zeal for the piano, and the gamut of emotional states to which its sounds palpably allude, that would open up his mind to the possibilities we all too easily take for granted.

Five of Bartók's important contributions to the repertoire are included on this disc, which incidentally brings forward a truly stunning quality of sound, particularly at its bass region, which somehow manages to bite without leaving lasting scars, and at the higher frequencies, which dazzle without blinding. Although we hear continual embodiments of folk music in all of the pieces (written over a period of 18 years) and are unfailingly struck by the composer's unquenchable resource for rhythmic innovation, these can take the form of contemplative, utterly engrossed miniatures, such as the Four Dirges. Yet the folk constituent also plays an inestimable function in the more hot-headed, 'febrile' music we easily associate with Bartók's larger-scale piano music – in works such as the Piano Sonata and the Out of Doors suite – both of which marked a significant return to piano writing in 1926, following a hiatus of around six years.

In all of these pieces Bringuier is in very comfortable territory, shifting strategy at the drop of a hat to meet the demands of this most exacting music. Take, for example, 'With Drums and Pipes' and 'The Night's Music' from Out of Doors, in which Bringuier generates arresting and ecstatic evocations (not to mention the wrist-cramping finale to the work, 'The Chase', which he brings off with an admirably robust brittleness). Eight Improvisations further confirms the composer's desire to unshackle music from formal constraints, and the fourth of these, 'Allegretto Scherzando', emerges as a notably crisp and incisive rendition.

Although the Two Romanian Dances, with which the recording begins, are vibrantly encapsulated by Bringuier, it is the closing Piano Sonata that invites our greatest attention. Clarity of texture in the outer movements is never compromised, while, as Rathert comments, the central *Sostenuto e pesante* emerges as 'a picture rather than movement': I was most engaged by the playing here. Indeed, Bringuier's Bartók compares very favourably with Murray Perahia's, notwithstanding the latter's energetic, muscular sway in the finale particularly. However, the preferential sound in this new recording, coupled with Bringuier's combination of youthful *joie de vivre* and sense of measure in the more soothing material, allows this recording to come forward as a resilient and worthy competitor.

klassik.com November 2009 (Wendelin Bitzan - 2009.11.27)
source: <http://magazin.klassik.com/reviews/revie...>



Mit Trommeln und Pfeifen

Beeindruckende stilistische Vielfalt des Klavierkomponisten Bartók

Mit Trommeln und Pfeifen

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lexnews.free.fr Édition Semaine n° 44 - Octobre 2009 (Philippe-Emmanuel Krautter - 2009.10.01)



Béla Bartok a opéré la synthèse, déjà annoncée par Frantz Liszt avec les...

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Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk MDR Figaro - Take 5, 19.10.2009 (- 2009.10.19)



Nicolas Bringuier ist Ende 20 und wird sicherlich Zwickauer Musikfreunden als 2....

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Pianiste novembre-décembre 2010 n° 65 (Stéphane Friédérich - 2010.11.01)



Le choix d'un grand Kawai de concert EX remarquablement bien harmonisé et...

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schallplattenmann.de Ausgabe #642 vom 07.09.2009 (Sal Pichireddu - 2009.09.07)



Musik kommt von der Melodie, Rhythmus und Klang

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Scherzo abril 2010 (Santiago Martn Bermdez - 2010.04.01)

sch~~e~~rzo

Al margen de algunas piezas juveniles, toda la obra de Bartk para piano solo...

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www.SA-CD.net September 5, 2009 (Arnaldo - 2009.09.05)



Right off the bat, it should be noted that this SACD featuring Nicolas Bringuier...

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Zwickauer Zeitung 14. August 2009 (TK - 2009.08.14)

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