## Johannes Brahms: Cello Sonatas

**aud 92.516**

**EAN: 4022143925169**

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American Record Guide (David Moore - 2005.01.01)

This is impressive. The performances are forward-moving and dramatic, and the recording is bright and resonant, with hints of surrounding upper partials that contribute to the interest of both cello and piano sound. I shouldn't know this, since I have no capability in my system for tasting the presumed glories of multichannel sound or SACD. This recording makes me happy with what I have, two fine speakers with the clarity and resonance to appreciate good recorded sound when they are presented with it. I hope this is not one of those over-expensive SACD discs, since it is short in timing and sounds perfectly fine in straight stereo.

When it comes to Brahms, I have so many preconceived notions as to how he ought to sound, based on old records and performances I have heard and done – any new recording is likely to bring out odd reactions. Wick and Devoyon have a passionate approach to the music. The only hesitation I have is that their passion is so perfect in its expression that it tends to sound planned. Wick's vibrato is a bit unvaried, though his actual phrasing is excellent. Devoyon is a model pianist with a fine sense of balance and interesting tone color. To sum up, I have heard a few more consistently exciting readings of these pieces, but few that show more effective organization and are as richly recorded.



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