Portrait Bronislaw Gimpel

aud 21.418

EAN: 4022143214188

4 0 2 2 1 4 3 2 1 4 1 8 8

Gramophone (2012.12.01)

GRAMOPHONE

Simply Gimpel

Recordings by the Ukrainian violinist Bronislav Gimpel have, in general, earned their high reputation more among violin aficionados than among a wider recordcollecting public. Some little while ago Vox issued a fine double pack that included concertos by Dvořák and (especially fine) Goldmark but Audite's new three-disc set of Berlin broadcasts significantly extends our appreciation of Gimpel's art.

Two discs feature duo sonatas with pianist Martin Krause, a most sympathetic collaborator, the Janáček Sonata being a highlight, its broadly paced first movement sounding like an elegiac lullaby. Schubert's A major Sonata reminded me somewhat of Szymon Goldberg's rigorous but lyrical approach to the composer's work, and while the darkly shaded Schumann A minor doesn't quite level with Busch and Serkin from the 1930s (EMI), it still lays claim to being among the best available.

The concertos disc opens to a thoughtfully conducted account of the Sibelius (conducted by Fritz Lehmann), with Gimpel at his persuasive best. I was particularly happy to see Szymanowski's often striking Second Concerto programmed rather than the more frequently performed First, especially as Gimpel makes perfect musical sense of its attractive but often prolix arguments (Arthur Rother conducts); and in Wieniawski's attractive Second, as well as delivering a succulent performance, Gimpel and his conductor Alfred Gohlke offer us more of the purely orchestral writing than, say,]ascha Heifetz does on his recordings. With good sound and excellent transfers, this attractive collection makes for a most engaging introduction to an exceptionally gifted violinist.

»audite« Ludger Böckenhoff • Tel.: +49 (0)5231-870320 • Fax: +49 (0)5231-870321 • info@audite.de • www.audite.de