Rafael Kubelik conducts Bartók: Bluebeard's Castle

aud 95.626

EAN: 4022143956262

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www.voix-des-arts.com (Joseph Newsome - 2014.06.25)

Presented in best-possible sound via Audite's new remastering by Ludger Böckenhoff, this 1962 concert performance of Bartók's awe-inspiring score proclaims in every one of its sixty minutes that the opera is a benchmark of polytonalism and Freudian psychological drama. Rafael Kubelík, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, and Irmgard Seefried form an unlikely but uncannily potent team who offer a legitimate performance of Bartók's music rather than a reaction to its reputation. As a document of its conductor's mastery of a tricky score that has defeated many gifted musicians and an example of the feats of which great singers are capable even in music that overextends their vocal resources, this recording is a treasure: as an absorbing, imperfect but indispensable performance of Bluebeard's Castle, it is one of the most welcome releases of 2014.

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