



Franz Schubert: Late Piano Works, Vol. 2

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Yet another fine performance of Schubert's last sonata to compete with endless others. This one certainly has enough gravitas in the opening Molto moderato—perhaps a little too much. Intensity of concentration in the Andante sostenuto may sometimes seem to interrupt the flow, but what some may see as mannerism, others will embrace as interpretive genius. While I have yet to hear his other recordings in this series of the late piano works, I will certainly address that omission should the opportunity present itself. The Italian pianist most definitely deserves the effort.

Spirits are appropriately lifted in the Scherzo and Final Allegro, ma non troppo, though we can never lose sight of the impending death of one of the world's greatest music masters.

The three pieces, D 946, left unpublished at Schubert's death, are less frequent visitors to the world of recitals, though many recordings exist. This one is a strong entry, with enough power and forward thrust to make us sit up and give our full attention. The lyricism is prime Schubert, and Lucchesini embraces it with warmth. With the Steinway D sounding wonderful, decent, if not outstanding notes, and generous playing time we have a very competitive entry—if not quite at the top, definitely not far from it.

SCHUBERT: Piano Sonata in B-flat; 3 Pieces
Andrea Lucchesini
Audite 97766—79 minutes

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