



Franz Schubert: Piano Sonata D 850 & Three Piano Pieces D 946

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[American Record Guide](#) (Vroon - 2008.09.01)

I made the mistake of listening to the Three Pieces first. I didn't like them. No. 2 is my favorite, and it seems rushed and businesslike. The other two are boring here. So I was against this pianist and thought him insensitive. I took out Cooper, Jando, and Perianes (May/June 2008) and loved what they did with these three pieces.

But then I played the sonata and found it charming! Can it be that he hadn't really spent any time on the three pieces and just worked them up as an afterthought – as fill? What else could explain the comparative excellence of the sonata?

The sonata is one of Schubert's long ones – 44 minutes – and has a very moving slow movement (17 minutes in itself) and a light and delightful scherzo. This pianist seems to have entered into Schubert's world and mind and replicated his thoughts for us. It sounds like Schubert, and it's quite beautiful. I see that we have reviewed a dozen other recordings of the sonata, including the inimitable Imogen Cooper, who does Schubert very idiomatically (Jan/Feb 1990). I made no comparisons, but I like this recording, and I don't like what most pianists do with Schubert.