



Piano

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In the chords of the slow introduction of the first movement of this second piano concerto by Brahms it is already displayed that the Russian pianist Anna Malikova is well aware of the still following dramatic effort. She builds up this inner drama so skillfully and sensibly that it is a pleasure to listen. Her touch is full of nuances, she produces lots of colors and above all her virtuosity and agogics are stunning. To anyone who knows this concert well it is clear that it requires every fiber of strength from the Russian soloist.

But there is no trace of weak moments, on the contrary, Malikova plays in such a superior, powerful and wise way, which is seldom heard in concert. Together with the wonderfully accompanying Duisburg Philharmonic Orchestra, she is able to integrate the difficult solo part into the surrounding orchestra, without losing anything of her expressive solo moments.

The pianist then wanders narrating through the second movement, glorifying the majestic character as well as the scherzo-like moments. The cello-piano duo in the third movement is interwoven with the inherent melancholy of the music, and the listener can clearly feel its tragic significance; this is followed by the final in a dance-like manner. Anna Malikova presents herself as a great pianist and with this production she is releasing a reference recording that should be heard. The overall sound of this recording outclasses many others!

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Johannes Brahms

Klavierkonzert Nr. 2

Anna Malikova, Klavier (Shigeru

Kawai EX)

Duisburger Philharmoniker

ltg.: Jonathan Darlington

Acousence Classics 21912

(Vertrieb: Gebhardt)