



Works for Clarinet and Piano by Schumann, Debussy, Saint-Saëns, Poulenc and Arnold

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FONO FORUM

Sonaten-Miteinander ("Sonata Togetherness")

Translation

For duo-sonatas with a piano and a 'soloist' instrument, the question always arises of how much the 'solo' instrument holds back, adapts to the piano, how much it enables the coexistence of two equal partners. Far too often, piano is equated with 'accompaniment' while violin, cello, or a wind instrument vigorously trumps. Without even thinking that two belong in this sonata.

In this regard, on this CD the Canadian clarinetist Arthur Campbell plays various works for clarinet and piano so exemplarily as one seldom hears. He holds back in tone and gesture so much, that many listeners whose focus lies primarily on the clarinet could be disappointed at this reserve. On the other hand, whoever follows the togetherness of piano and wind instrument will be inspired. Campbell virtually fuses with the tone of the piano (Helen Marlais), which results in an interpretation of impressive inclusiveness. Seldom has one so clearly observed the bubbling substructure of the piano part of Schumann's Fantasy Pieces op. 73 and, thereby, seldom have the Schumann pieces been played so elegantly and delicately. And seldom has the clarinet part in Debussy's Premier Rhapsody been seamlessly joined with the impressionistic piano tones. Campbell's and Marlais' playing is always exact, elegant, without excess. The beauty of this genuinely joint playing is so captivating that it seems to lack for nothing. Not even romantic emotional eruptions outbursts.