



Julius Katchen plays Liszt, Brahms, Beethoven, Schumann and Chopin

aud 21.419

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[American Record Guide](#) (Sang Woo Kang - 2014.09.01)

Acclaimed for his legendary interpretations of Brahms, Katchen does not disappoint us with this program. Remastered from 1960s radio sessions, it makes many performances available for the first time, such as the works by Beethoven, Liszt, and Chopin.

True to form, the Brahms is excellent, especially the fiercely rhythmic Scherzo. He captures every nuance in one of the most convincing interpretations of Ballade 3 I have heard in a long time. His rubatos are sensitive and tasteful; he performs the coda with a fine balance of passion and control. Berceuse is exquisite. While clearer passagework and more polished playing may be heard from countless recordings of the Liszt Sonata, they cannot compete with his magnificent and original rendering. Katchen's command of the architecture and dramatic range of the work nullifies any misfired notes. He delivers the 32 Variations with razor-sharp clarity.

The sound quality is excellent. Audite has assembled a fine tribute to an astounding pianist whose career ended too soon.