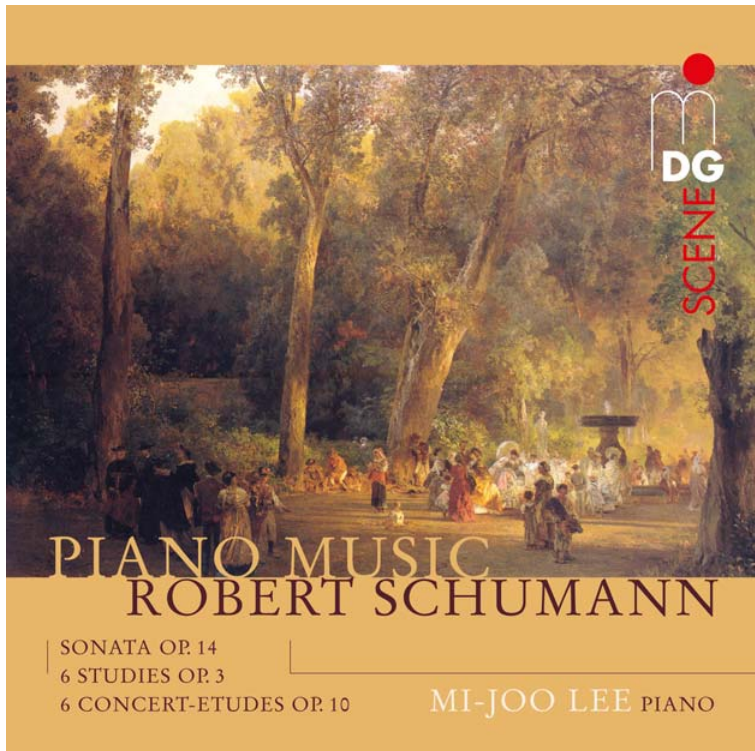


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SCENE



03/10-(6)

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Sonata op. 14

Studies after Paganini op. 3

Etudes after Paganini op. 10

Mi-Joo Lee, Klavier

1 CD

Order No.: MDG 604 0941-2

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Perfect Sense

The piano music by Robert Schumann on this release is a psychogram of his early compositional period. Mi-Joo Lee performs the Fantasy Sonata in F minor in a reconstruction which makes perfect sense of the confused sources behind this great work.

Labour of Love

For Schumann it was important that his compositions rise like the "phoenix from the ashes": geniuses do not labour but follow sudden inspirations. In reality, however, things were quite different. Schumann worked on his Fantasy Sonata op. 14 over a number of years, labouring away to bring it to perfection, and made countless corrections during the process leading to the completion of this monumental keyboard masterpiece.

Summer of 1836

"You can understand the fantasy only if you go back to the unhappy summer of 1836." Here Schumann is referring to his catastrophic psychic state during his composition of the sonata, as it seems, to the time when his love for the fourteen-year-old Clara Wieck and the first signs of conflict with her father virtually lamed him.

Obsessions of the Heart

Schumann composed his two Paganini etudes at the same time and thus also while "obsessed/possessed with Clara." After her husband's death Clara avoided his demanding etudes, preferring rather to play Liszt's more effective Paganini paraphrases.

To the Top

It is not easy for a Korean to gain a foothold in the Western musical world. Mi-Joo Lee is one of the few young Asian pianists who are on their way to the top: piano concerts in Berlin's Philharmonic Hall, recitals in Europe, Japan, and the United States, and numerous prizes and distinctions have earned her a top ranking among today's classical pianists.

"Outstanding pianist ... a highly recommendable disc..." (BBC Music Magazine)

"Lee's playing is pin-sharp throughout, athletic and gratifying confident. ... The piano sound is even across the keyboard's range and is supported within a wonderfully discreet resonance." (International Record Review)

"Rarities that Schumann lovers will want to investigate. Good playing and decent recording." (Penguin Guide)