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SCENE



09/09-(5)

Title:
Player Piano 9
Conlon Nancarrow
(1912-1997)
Studies for Player Piano Vol.5
Studies Nr. 49a-c
and other works

Bösendorfer Grand Piano
with Ampico Player Piano Mechanism
(1927)

1 CD

Order Number:
MDG 645 1409-2

UPC-Code:



Crowning Conclusion

The MDG Nancarrow series concludes with congratulations and new world premieres. Conlon Nancarrow's four posthumous *Studies* are recorded here for the first time, and the American's last composition for player piano, dedicated to his third wife Yoko and premiered here by Jürgen Hocker on his Ampico-Bösendorfer, crowns the most comprehensive Nancarrow edition ever undertaken. A unique monument!

Discographic Gap

The first recordings of Nancarrow's compositions were produced on his own pianos in Mexico in 1977. At the time this American composer living in self-imposed exile had completed his *Studies* only up to No. 41. A later recording with the other *Studies* in 1988 was marred by the catastrophic condition of the instruments. Hocker has now closed this gap in the Nancarrow discography by supplementing his great oeuvre with compositions from the last years of the composer's life (during which he became his close friend) and from his posthumous papers, which today are among the holdings of the Paul Sacher Foundation.

Touchy Toccata

The *Toccata* recorded here represents yet another special case. This brief and dazzlingly brilliant work from 1935 was originally intended for piano and violin. Since nobody could adequately render the piano part, Nancarrow transferred it to the player piano in 1978. Here Otfried Nies, who performed the work in the

composer's presence on various occasions, plays the violin part marked by high virtuosity.

Lasting Monument

"Tingling sensation plus" (musikansich.de)
"A lasting monument of virtual piano playing" (klassik.com)
"Piano rolls meet new technology. The set of 50 studies he wrote for player piano are 20th-century classics, and this German label uses the latest technology to produce a cycle that will surely be considered definitive" (*Gramophone*)
"Enthusiastically recommended – a turbulence like no other's. Jürgen Hocker's meticulous realizations are a landmark not merely for Nancarrow mavens but for 20th-century music" (*Fanfare*)
"The first complete recording of this gigantic work is cause for celebration; strongly recommended" (*International Record Review*)

Conlon Nancarrow
Studies Vol. 1: No. 1-12
MDG 645 1401-2

Studies Vol. 2: No. 13-32
MDG 645 1403-2

Studies Vol. 3: No. 33-41c
MDG 645 1405-2

Studies Vol. 4: No. 42-48
MDG 645 1407-2

