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01/10-(5)

John Cage (1912-1992)
"Violin and Piano"

Andreas Seidel, violin
Steffen Schleiermacher, piano

1 CD

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Perfect Fit

Steffen Schleiermacher's recording of the complete piano works of John Cage brought him his international breakthrough. These highly professional recordings earned the pianist numerous prizes, including three (!) ECHO Klassik awards. Schleiermacher, teaming up with Andreas Seidel, now returns to Cage's music, in a recording of this composer's complete oeuvre for piano and violin. These four pieces spanning five decades in Cage's life are also a perfect fit for the CD format.

Francophone Tone

The earliest piece of this collection, *Nocturne*, is from 1947. It was then that Cage discovered the French composer Erik Satie for himself, and he went on to honor him with posthumous dedications in some of his pieces, including the short *Nocturne* verging on impressionism. A very different sound world opens up in the *Six Melodies* composed a mere three years later. In the piano part of these six short pieces Cage limits himself to twenty-five different tones and varies them with the greatest art in always identical combinations.

Personal Taste

Two late works from 1991 and 1992 clearly indicate the enormous distance that Cage had covered from his *Nocturne* to his *Number Pieces*. Cage offers the musicians, instead of a score, mere intervals of time in which they are supposed to execute a certain number of tones. The stopwatch becomes for them the measure of all things. In the composition *Two*⁴ Cage also prescribes minute microtonal deviations as

well as the particular tone color or its modification. The circle is completed in *Two*⁶. Here Cage draws on Erik Satie's *Vexation*, employing its bass line and modifying it with aleatory operations, and gives the interpreter an abstract time scheme that he can fill out in keeping with his own taste.

Dream Team

Steffen Schleiermacher has called on the violinist Andreas Seidel to serve as his partner on this recording. Seidel is a musician who with his joy of performance and technical brilliance today again enriches the Gewandhaus Orchestra in Leipzig. He used to be the first violinist of the no less renowned Leipzig String Quartet. The two musicians have already celebrated shared successes in Schleiermacher's Ensemble Avantgarde.

John Cage

Complete Piano Music Vol. 1-10
Steffen Schleiermacher, piano

John Cage

Voice and Piano
Anna Clementi, voice
Steffen Schleiermacher, piano
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John Cage

Trombone and Piano
Mike Svoboda, trombone
Steffen Schleiermacher, piano
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