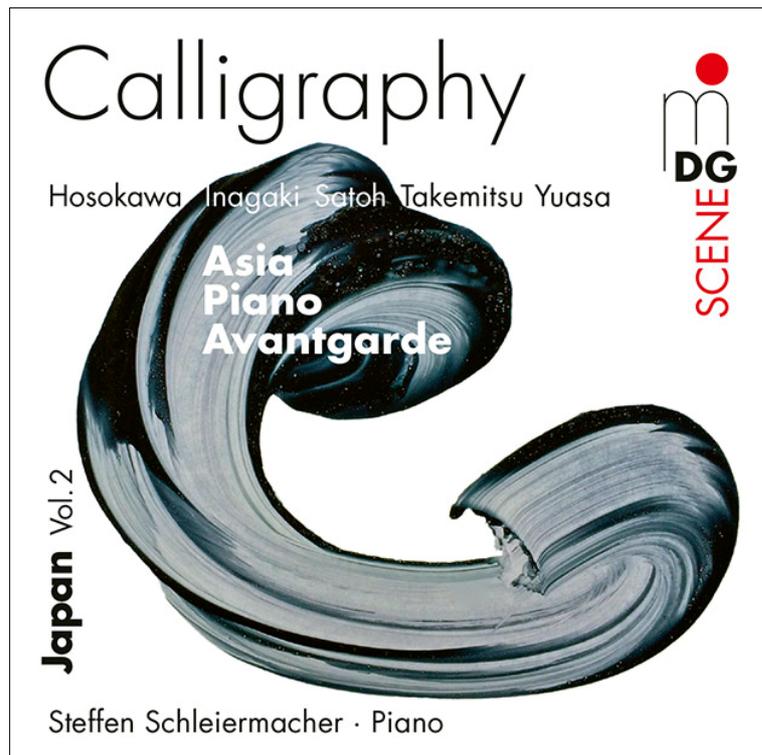


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10/16-(6)

„Calligraphy“
Asia Piano Avantgarde
Vol. 2 Japan (1960-2012)

Steffen Schleiermacher, piano

1 CD

MDG 613 1980-2

UPC-Code:



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Global Connections

Steffen Schleiermacher, a global player in the field of contemporary music, once again presents astonishing new finds, now from his latest journey. His new album, *Calligraphy*, focuses on Japanese avant-garde music between 1960 and 2012. Toshio Hosokawa, Toru Takemitsu, Joji Yuasa, Keijiri Satoh, and Seiichi Inagaki represent a broad spectrum of Japanese compositional artistry. No matter how different these works may be, the increasing interest in the thousands of years of musical tradition in their country more than justifies their presentation together.

Genuine Contrasts

The most recent piece in this anthology refers to this tradition in its title: “Mai – Ancient Japanese Dance Music” by Toshio Hosokawa refers to the Nō theater, where the dance of the principal protagonist is accompanied by the flute and two drums and performed in dramaturgically important plot situations. The absolutely independent composition plays with the contrasts of sound and silence and of motion and rest, while natural sounds also figure significantly. Keijiri’s Satoh’s “Calligraphy,” from which the recital derives its title, employs similar contrasts but is much more finely traced, black-on-white, like a fine manuscript hand.

Interpretive Connotations

Of course European influences do not entirely vanish when these composers reflect on their own culture. Joji Yuasa’s “Projection Esemplastic” composed in 1962 is a Far Eastern contribution to the Fluxus

movement. Here the interpreter becomes a co-creator: one has to choose from various possibilities; instructions are at best cryptic. However, the “score” makes a very pretty visual impression: graphic figures dominate the picture; lines that perhaps suggest relations have to be filled with life by the interpreter, and the few real “notes” raise more questions than they give answers.

Innovative Concepts

Steffen Schleiermacher knows his way around such pieces. This is not the first time that the industrious and innovative composer and pianist has turned to an exclusively Far Eastern program. After his first CD with Japanese music and an excursion to the Indonesian archipelago, *Calligraphy* represents the third volume in this little series. And once again he produces a very rewarding audio portrait of a musical landscape meriting greater notice the West.

Asia Piano Avantgarde

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Fluxus

Works of the 1960s by Sylvano Bussotti,
Toru Takemitsu, John Cage, Yoko Ono, György Ligeti
and others
MDG 613 1911-2