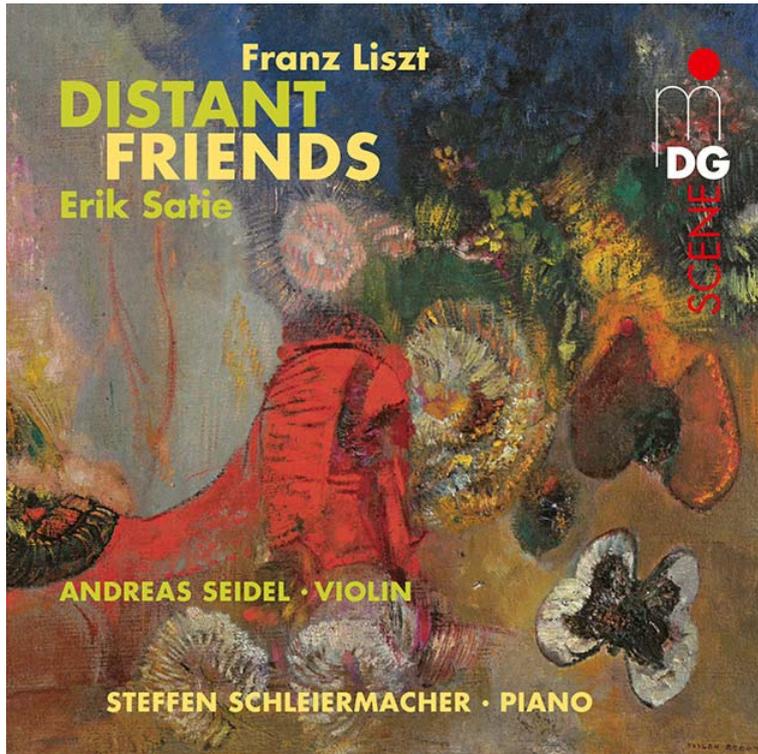


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04/17-(6)

Erik Satie (1866-1925)
Franz Liszt (1811-1886)
"Distant Friends"

Andreas Seidel, violin
Steffen Schleiermacher, piano

1 CD

MDG 613 2011-2

UPC-Code:



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Common Cause

What might Franz Liszt possibly have in common with Erik Satie? The brilliant virtuoso and magician of pianistic opulence with the minimalistic ascetic of sound? Steffen Schleiermacher has discovered astonishing parallels between the former's late oeuvre and the latter's early oeuvre, which was taking shape at just about the same time. Together with the Gewandhaus concertmaster Andreas Seidel he is now presenting his astonishing new findings to the listening public – surprises are guaranteed!

Skinned Alive

The interrelation is immediately obvious to the ear. Liszt's late piano pieces create an extraordinarily succinct impression; monophony dominates the sound events over long stretches, and really nothing at all remains of romantic sumptuousness. Erik Satie once described his own compositional style as "skinned music" – and no description could be more fitting for Liszt's late works!

Clairvoyant Code

Now and again reminiscences of past times are heard, for example, in the "Romance oubliée," before this forgotten romance unravels into ethereal nothingness. Moreover, Richard Wagner makes his presence felt again and again. Liszt's very mixed feelings about his son-in-law, whose death in Venice he foresaw like a visionary, is reflected in the two "Sad Gondolas" – and after Wagner actually had died in the heartrending and overwhelming "R. W. – Venezia."

Suspended Animation

Erik Satie, the house composer of the Wagner devotee Sar Péladan and his Rosicrucians, did precisely the opposite of what was expected of him. Static sounds and sequences of unresolved chords without development hold his music in a permanent state of suspended animation managing without a beginning or an end. The door he opened for later generations of composers was one through which Franz Liszt delightfully would have gone if he had been somewhat younger.

Further recordings with Andreas Seidel and Steffen Schleiermacher:

John Cage: Violin and Piano
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Morton Feldman: Violin and Piano
MDG 613 1524-2 (2 CDs)

Wolfgang Rihm: Violin and Piano
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