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Custom Review

A new Understanding of this composer's work

Nuccio Trotta's traversal of Scriabin's 10 Piano Sonatas is a revelation. There have been quite a few impressive recent recordings of these works in past months and years, and the fact that these have been so varied and variegated speaks to the quality of Scriabin's pen, which has still yet to be fully appraised and understood. I think Trotta's new interpretation will move us some way toward a new era in the understanding of this composer's work, ideas and life.

The cover image illustrates this well with a broken mirror; what has come before has been destroyed. A new, illuminating pane or prism has been erected for us to view the masterly sonatas from a fresh perspective.

The only way to really describe his playing is how someone once described Mozart's music: that it was already in existence in the world, as if from the beginning of time, and the author/composer had the knowledge/expertise to reveal it! I think this is a nice way to view these new interpretations. They appear as if completely organic, fully formed mature works.

Trotta's touch is light but his conviction is strong; essential to tease out from within Scriabin's powerful and diabolic nuances. Some of the finest piano performances have a strange ability as if to collapse time and transport you to a still past which removes the sullies of the modern world and all its foibles, to reach a kind of crystalline clarity. I believe Trotta achieved this in his recording, in order that we might be able to start that journey to realise how Scriabin thought of his own music, on its own terms. Aside from the technical ability so convincingly displayed, Trotta is able to identify a long lost world of sound - Scriabin's rich pianistic language and most intimate cosmos - and welcome us in from the inside. A most enjoyable journey, if you are ready!

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