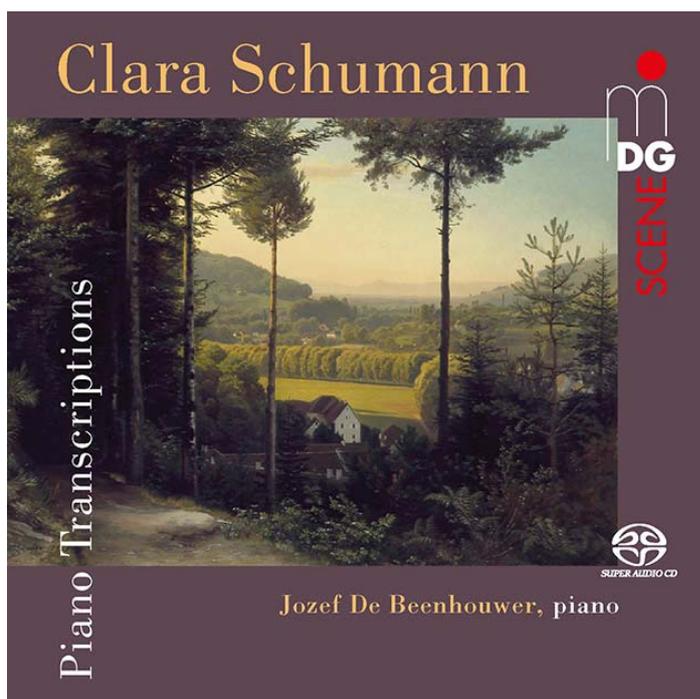


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SCENE



Clara Schumann
(1819 - 1896)

Piano Transcriptions

Jozef De Beenhouwer, piano

1 Hybrid-SACD

222[®]
RECORDING

MDG 903 2115-6



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Family Album

Josef De Beenhouwer offers Clara Schumann and listening audiences a special gift on the occasion of the two hundredth anniversary of her birth: a CD including numerous recording premieres from this famous pianist's extensive transcription oeuvre. He not only honors her compositional talent but also spotlights works with which she very deliberately and intensively occupied herself – and in the process very attractively nuances our picture of the musical Schumann family.

Impressive Demonstration

The focus is formed by selected songs by Robert Schumann. Thirty transcriptions in all were published during Clara's lifetime, and eleven others were discovered and edited only a few years ago. De Beenhouwer's choices drawing on both sources impressively demonstrate how skillfully Clara integrated the voice part into Robert's piano parts, which often are quite complicated.

Artistic Friendship

Clara also transferred Robert's *Studies and Sketches for the Pedal Piano* to the piano. The pieces are for hands with an enormous span and flexibility – and attest to her outstanding pianistic capabilities. Johannes Brahms of course also has

something to contribute to this meritorious program: the minuet from the *Serenade in D major* and the scherzo from the – almost unplayable – arrangement of the *Serenade in A major* shed light on Clara's intimate artistic friendship with this younger composer.

Intelligent Design

Two genuine finds round off this intelligently designed program: an andante from the *Three Diversions* by William Sterndale Bennett, a composer completely unknown in Germany, and the album page on "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott" by Clara Wieck composed when she was just nineteen years old make us eager for more – above all, when these works are so lovingly presented as they are here by Josef De Beenhouwer on this Super Audio CD meticulously recorded in a natural room atmosphere.

also available:

Clara Schumann

Complete Songs
Miriam Alexandra, soprano
Peter Gijsbertsen, tenor
Jozef De Beenhouwer, Piano
MDG 903 2114-6