



Josef Matthias Hauer
(1883 - 1959)

Early Piano Music

Nomos op. 1 (1912)
Sieben kleine Klavierstücke op. 3 (1913)
Fünf Klavierstücke op. 15 (1919)
Nachklangstudien op. 16 (1919)
Musik-Film op. 51 – eine Folge von
kleinen charakteristischen Stücken
für Pianoforte (1927)

Steffen Schleiermacher, Piano
Steinway D „Manfred Bürki“ 1901

MDG 613 2220-2



unprecedented

At the same time as Arnold Schönberg, Josef Matthias Hauer developed a very individual system for twelve-tone composition. The works of the two Austrians could not be more different, as Steffen Schleiermacher has impressively documented in several CD productions. Now the versatile pianist has addressed Hauer's earliest works, providing an exciting insight into an important chapter of 20th-century music history.

demanding

Hauer calls his opus 1 "Nomos", which implies a great claim: like a law of nature, this composition already contains everything that makes up music - new works are only further elaborations. Of course, the public at the time could not follow Hauer in this - the premiere of the orchestral version did not even take place until 30 years after Hauer's death.

ethereal

Of the few works by Hauer that make it onto today's programme from time to time, the "Nachklangstudien", which in their delicate texture develop a very special, somehow oriental aura, are probably the best known. Quite different are the "Five Little Pieces" from the same year, which, with their reminiscences of Reger and other contrapuntalists, seem almost traditional.

picturesque

The cycle "Music-Film" is downright enigmatic. The 21 character pieces have programmatic titles, as if they were meant to illustrate a silent movie - or are they even a parody of this genre? In any case, Hauer actually wanted to publish the collection under a pseudonym. And indeed, the pieces have nothing in common with Hauer's other tonal language. Steffen Schleiermacher, however, approaches this work with the same seriousness as he does the other pieces, and he succeeds in a fascinating rehabilitation for someone who has been unjustly almost completely forgotten.

also available:

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Mémoires et Chansons
Holger Falk / Steffen Schleiermacher
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Eric Satie (1866-1925)
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Piano Works Vol. 2 - **MDG 613 1064-2**
Piano Works Vol. 3 - **MDG 613 1065-2**
Piano Works Vol. 4 - **MDG 613 1066-2**
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Piano Works Vol. 6 - **MDG 613 2124-2**
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Erik Satie (1866-1925)
Intégrale de Mémoires et Chansons
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