★★★★★ Another Brilliantly Conceived Left Hand Recital

By Dennis E. Ferrara on June 2, 2016

Once again, Maxime Zecchini has issued a brilliant recital of unique repertoire for the left hand. Here the pianist as selected left hand transcriptions by the late Paul Wittgenstein - (1887-1961) who lost his right arm during WWI. He developed and published a three volume set entitled 'School for the Left Hand' (Universal Press - 1957) and in the third volume, there are transcribed 27 compositions by various composers to "dazzle, delight and astonish" audiences throughout the world. Several of these superb transcriptions are issued here.

The Program - Oeuvres Pour La Main Gauche - V - Maxime Zecchini - Advitam - TT: 53:41 - Charles Gounod - (1818-1893) - Ave Maria; Franz Liszt - (1811-1886) - Reve d'amour - Liebestraume - No. 3; Felix Mendelssohn - (1809-1957) - Songs Without Words m- (Lieder ohne Worte) - Op. 53/2 - 'The Fleecy Clouds; Op.62/4 - 'Spring Song'; Op.85/1 - 'Daydreams'; Op.85/4 - 'Elegy'; Robert Schumann - (1810-1856) - Reverie - 'Traumerei' - from Kinderszenen; Edvard Grieg - (1843-1907) - Elegy, Op. 47/7; Melancholy, Op.47/5; Frederick Chopin - (1810-1849) - Waltz, Op. 64/2; Franz Schubert - (1797-1826) - Du bist die Ruh; Johann Sebastian Bach - (1685-1750) - Sicilienne - The second movement from the Flute Sonata in E-flat major –

These difficult transcriptions for the left hand certainly require a brilliant technic and musicality which this young French pianist has in great abundance to make these compositions come alive and they certainly do come alive here. The pianist's sensitivity, subtle approach combined with a total understanding of nuance, color, and the arts of pedal expression and the musical phrase are evident throughout this new recital.

Excellent program notes are in French and English by the artist and make for interesting reading for professional and amateur alike. **Highly recommended**. A 5 out of a 5