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★★★★★ The Beginning of a Unique Series for Music of the Left Hand

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This review is from: **Works for the left hand - Vol.1 (Audio CD)**

This is the first of a truly excellent proposed series for select music for the left hand. Ad Vitam is to be congratulated in proposing a series of at least six recordings (the sixth recording to be issued in September) of a unique repertoire which is basically unknown by several concert pianists, and music lovers as a whole. The young, brilliant French concert pianist, Maxime Zecchini is the pianist for this new and exciting series.

The Program - Oeuvres Pour La Main Gauche - Anthologie I - Maxime Zecchini - TT: 64:01 - Maurice Ravel - (1875-1937) - Concerto for the Left Hand - Transcription by Maxime Zecchini of the piano solo and both piano solo and orchestral parts are included in this left hand transcription; Alexandre Scriabine - (1872-1915) - Prelude and Nocturne, Op. 9; Frederick Chopin - (1810-1849) - Transcriptions by Leopold Godowsky - (1870-1938) - No. 22 form Revolutionary Study, Op.10/12; No. 5 in D-flat major - from Study, Op. 10/3; Camille Saint-Saens - (1835-1921) - Three Studies - Extracted from The Six Studies for the Left-Hand, Op. 135; J.S. Bach - (1685-1750) - Chaconne from Violin Partita No. 2 - Transcription by Johannes Brahms - (1833-1897).

The brilliant concert pianist Paul Wittgenstein - (1887-1961) lost his right arm during WWI and being wealthy had several great composers including Korngold, Schmidt, Strauss, Britten, Prokofiev and Ravel to compose a series of piano concertos; furthermore, he also transcribed 27 very difficult transcriptions for the left hand alone which may be found on other recordings of this superb series. He pianist also recorded a series of very rare German reproducing piano rolls.

Here one finds Zecchini as a sensitive, colorful piano virtuoso and with an excellent piano technique which combines nuance, warmth, and sensitivity for the musical phrase in performing these extremely difficult left-hand transcriptions. Outstanding examples in this recording include the unique Scriabine, Chopin, Saint-Saens and the Bach. One hopes that this sterling pianist will record the entire 27 set of transcriptions by Wittgenstein as well as complete set of left-hand transcriptions by Godowsky of the select works of Chopin.

Excellent program notes in French and English by this artist make for very interesting reading as part of the enjoyment of this first recording as issued by Ad Vitam.