

Reviews | March 2022

Stark and Pescia aren't afraid to get their hands dirty, and Stark's lower strings sometimes buzz against the fingerboard. But there's fantasy here too, and the pair have a remarkable knack for holding these elements in balance – and finding exactly the right tone-colour at any given instant, whether Pescia's metallic left-hand motor-rhythms or Stark's throaty harmonics in the central Molto quieto. ... Pescia's command of both form and colour also makes for a compelling account of the Piano Sonata.

Gramophone | CD Bloch | Richard Bratby

Stark and Pescia are restrained, thoughtful, colouristic interpreters, exploring the Hassidic lyric episodes at around the ten and twelve-minute mark with acuity and sensitivity. The pianist's chording is both powerful and beautifully balanced. The structural awareness in the performance is excellent.

www.musicweb-international.com | CD Bloch | Jonathan Woolf

These players capture all the drama of the opening movement, from the very first declamatory chords, which assert themselves with striking potency. Aside from all the drama, the lyrical sections have a burning intensity. [...] What draws me to this performances is the sheer range of imagination, variety and artistic expression these artists bring to the pieces.

www.musicweb-international.com | CD Schumann | Stephen Greenbank

Joseph Joachim, who premiered Robert Schumann's D minor Sonata, proclaimed it 'one of the loveliest creations of recent times'. It's hard not to agree with him when listening to the fierily passionate interpretation of Nurit Stark. [...] Her collaboration with Cédric Pescia is delightfully dovetailed, and they find plenty of detail in the following variations.

The Strad | CD Schumann | Carlos Maria Solare

These pieces have enjoyed a respectable number of recordings already, but Stark and Pescia manage to raise the bar on both in this wonderful Claves recording. ... Here, equal attention is paid to all parts of the sonata and the result is breathtaking; instead of coming off like a long short story, Busoni's sonata is more like a novel: it is expansive; it breathes, ebbs, and flows; and is marked with dramatic changes of scene. This is both a very well marked, yet spontaneous and inspired performance of the Busoni. The Enescu is equally good. Stark's playing of the solo part is fleet, impassioned, deeply expressive, and knowledgeable of the tradition that inspired it; Pescia's flowing accompaniment is both disciplined and loose, capturing the improvisational feel that Enescu was aiming for but staying true to the content of his text. ... What a heck of a debut!

www.allmusic.com | CD Busoni/Enescu