

Press reviews | October 2025

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"Severin von Eckardstein - one of the finest and boldest pianists Germany currently has to offer - is almost a regular guest in Husum. His artistry is evident in how casually he introduces the 'Impressions' op. 11b by Finnish composer Ilmari Hannikainen, as if he were recounting memories in a circle of friends."

FAZ | Husum | 23. August 2024 | Jan Brachmann

"Severin von Eckardstein throws all of his cards on the table, so to speak, imbuing the music with passion and ferocity. His tremolos have a Horowitz-like cutting edge, helped by the Bechstein grand's bright patina. Eckardstein has concocted a more pianistic and idiomatic treatment, where the climaxes explode up and down the keyboard as if, well, Scriabin himself had a hand in the process."

Classicstoday | CD Vers la Flamme | Jed Distler | 2024

"This is a remarkable release. The program concept brings everything together, and it is superbly played."

American Record Guide | CD-Kritik Vers la Flamme | James Harrington | March/April 2024

"Eckardstein creates an atmosphere of deep loneliness, on the edge of silence, as at the end of the second piece, which he plays scared and gaunt... or his introduction to the fourth piece, which he makes more aphoristic than one could imagine. One would have to talk about every single bar of this interpretation, which is unlike any other and cannot be tamed at first sight, but we prefer to point out that the encore is a rarity that one does not understand why it is. Eckardstein, one of the most important pianists of our time, gets going. It is more than a signature."

Classica CHOC | CD review Kreisleriana | Alain Lompech | June 2023

"Eckardstein offers an uncompromising and a priori reading that is far removed from any beauty. He searches the score for what makes up its black despair, and dismisses all tenderness in favour of an astonishing spiritual intensity (II). A declamatory and heart-rending interpretation, of great density (I, III and VII), inhabited by a superior inwardness (VI)."

Diapason | CD review Kreisleriana | Jean-Yves Clément | June 2023

"Cette idée que Kreisleriana n'est pas, d'abord, une suite de portraits ou d'actions, comme l'est Carnaval, mais bien un univers fini, une complétude, n'a pas été si souvent défendue, Wilhelm Kempff s'y est essayé, Severin von Eckardstein retrouve une part de sa poésie, y ajoute des contrastes, une tension parfois, sans jamais forcer le trait. On entre dans ce qui est un récit, on en tire le fil au point d'en oublier le piano lui-même, manière trop rarement osée ici."

artalinna | CD-Kritik Kreisleriana | Fantasmagories | Jean-Charles Hoffelé | April 18th, 2023

"Disons-le d'emblée, Severin von Eckardstein est le plus grand pianiste allemand depuis le légendaire Wilhelm Kempff. Un répertoire gigantesque, à 44 ans, qui souvent des sentiers battus; une virtuosité phénoménale; un

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toucher ductile et des couleurs inouïes qui fusent, au service d'un interprète habité, humble et profond, qui s'empare de l'oeuvre, déploie sa pensée, ses intuitions, son sens de l'architecture et du récit. On sort lessivé de ses „Kreisleriana“ de Schumann névrotiques, âcres, comme hallucinés, sans tendresse, mais avec un désespoir mis dans la cantilène qui nous broie le Coeur. Le délicieux cycle „Eroticon“ d'Adolf Jensen (1837-1879) est joué avec une maestria et une poésie renversantes. Le „Scherzo“ de Reubke, élève de Liszt? Une tornade. Quel disque, mes aïeux!”

L'OBS | Le Classique de Cassard | CD review | Philippe Cassard | April 6th, 2023

"The unfinished Schubert Sonata D 840 is a tightrope walk between movement and standstill. He succeeds in playing the lyrical melodies in a viscous and at the same time relentlessly propulsive manner, interrupted by angry and desperate outbursts. At the same time, he makes no effort to smooth out the harmonic breaks and abrupt changes - on the contrary! It is precisely this deviation from the expected that Eckardstein seeks and is interested in".

Westfalen-Blatt | Faible für Ungewöhnliches | Peter Ernst | March 14th, 2023

"These are remarkable interpretations that Severin von Eckardstein presents at his piano recital in the Allerheiligen Hofkirche. If one particular feature stands out, it is the exquisite clarity with which he illuminates quiet passages."

FAZ | Gabriel Dupont: Das Haus in den Dünen | Jan Brachmann | August 27th, 2018