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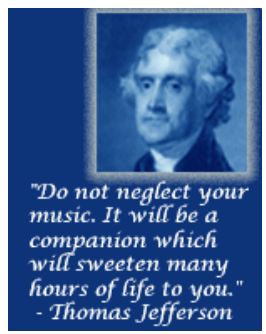
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Review: Farinelli the composer

Farinelli: The Composer Jorg Washchinski, male soprano Salburger

Hofmusik; Wolfgang Brunner, conductor New Classical Adventure



A New Recording of The Eight Great Keyboard Suites of Georg Frederich Handel

Handel: Eight Great Keyboard Suites Lisa Smirnova, piano ECM

As far as I am concerned, the never-ending debate on the appropriateness ...



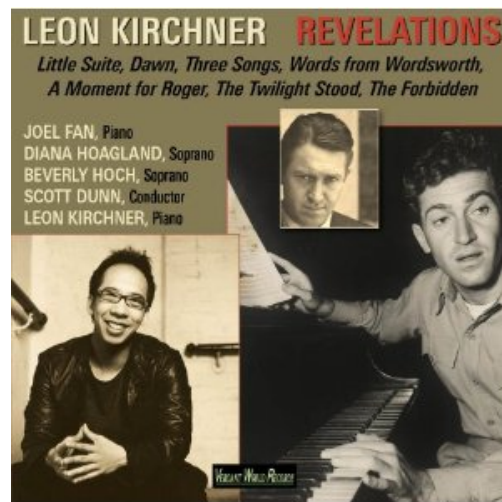
Review: Julia Lezhneva - a fresh, new voice

It is always a pleasure to hear a new and exciting voice. Julia

Wednesday, May 29, 2013

Leon Kirchner: Revelations - An intimate portrait

Leon Kirchner: Revelations
Joel Fan, piano
Diana Hoagland, soprano
Beverly Hoch, soprano
Scott Dunn, conductor
Leon Kirchner, piano
Verdant World Records



Revelations is an interesting overview of Kirchner's music. It ranges from some of his earliest work as a student in 1943, up through 2006, three years before his death. It's also an intimate overview, comprising of works for solo piano and piano plus voice compositions.

The opening and closing piano works -- *Little Suite* (1949) and *The Forbidden* (2006) frame the collection nicely. The *Little Suite* is charming in its simplicity and straight-forward themes. *The Forbidden*, though more complex, flows with the same easy motion as the *Suite*.

Dawn, while tonally based, avoids all the cliches of choral writing. This brief work has a sense of urgency to it that effectively conveys the meaning of the text. *Words from Wordsworth*, written 20 years after in 1966 is much more strident and edgy in tone. This isn't an academic exercise in dissonance. Kirchner illuminates the text with his carefully constructed harmonies.

Three Songs (1946) and *The Twilight Stood* (1982) are the most angular and atonal of the selections. Once again, the music is there to serve the text. Kirchner brings the emotions of the words vividly to life.

Pianist Joel Fan, who performs on all but one of selections, is an admirable interpreter of this music. His sympathetic readings bring its emotional content to the fore.

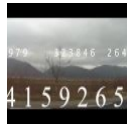
Posted by Ralph Graves at 7:53 AM

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Lezhneva, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa's 21 year-old protégé, has made her debut ...

LETTER FROM BAYREUTH

Wagnerians could be nowhere else this summer of the bicentennial of Wagner's birth but in Bayreuth for the new production of the Ring. This...



Whose Pi? Another classical copyright issue

My post this time was going to be about Michael John Blake .

He recently posted a video on YouTube entitled "The Sound of Pi." In ...

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Labels: contemporary music, Kirchner, Ralph, review

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