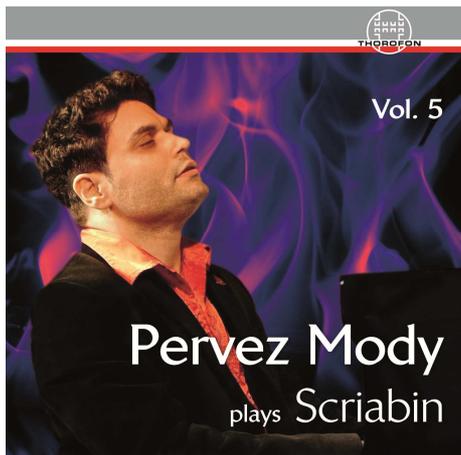


Piano works by Scriabin

02.06.2016 by Michael Schmidt

The 100th death anniversary of the Russian composer and mystic Alexander Scriabin last year attracted a great deal of attention and his extensive piano works still inspire pianists to find new interpretations. This is the fifth installment of the Scriabin recordings by the Indian born pianist Pervez Mody, who was trained in Russia and is currently living in Germany. Mody is already well known as a performer of Scriabin



ALEXANDER SCRIBIN: PIANO WORKS

Piano sonata No. 5, op. 53
Morceaux, op. 2 (Auszüge) Cinq Préludes, op. 15
Études, op. 8 (Auszüge)
Danses, op. 73
Scherzo, op. 46
Deux Poèmes, op. 44
Deux Impromptus, op. 12
Deux Préludes, op. 27
Fantasie, op. 28

Pervez Mody (Piano) Label: Thorofon

Alexander Scriabin: Piano works

The Russian writer Boris Pasternak once described the music of his countryman Alexander Scriabin as a mixture of the dusty archives of Chopin and the sun of Van Gogh. Henry Miller experienced Scriabin's music as sensational magic of ice baths, cocaine and rainbows. The suggestive, almost physical stimulus of Scriabin's musical language, which varies from dreamy longing to vibrant outbursts, poses a special challenge, both technically and musically to pianists. This pianist of Indian descent, who lives in Germany, rose to the challenge with spellbinding élan. Pervez Mody's Scriabin moves us not just by its passionate emotionality and extreme contrasts, but also by its finely graduated phrases and sound colors.

BRILLIANCE WITHOUT THUNDER

Alexander Scriabin was not only a composer, he was at the same time a mystic and a prophet, who wanted to transform the world into a state of ecstasy with his art. The one-movement, fifth piano sonata movement in the form of a free sonata movement also corresponds musically to his vision of ecstasy. It was written in 1907, at the same time as Scriabin's poem "Le poème de l'extase", from which he presented the following lines: "I call you to life, you mysterious powers! You who are sunk in the dark depths of the creative spirit, you frightened shadows of life, I bring you boldness." The virtuosity with which Pervez Mody mastered even the most intricate technical challenges of the Scriabin's piano eccentricity is brilliant and thanks to his subtle touch, it never seems like overwhelming thundering on the keys.

MYSTICAL NIGHT SHADOWS

Scriabin described his late piano poem "Flammes sombres" ("Dark Flames") from 1914 as a dance of the fallen. Whereas the first two motifs of this piano poem are stagnant in character and do not seem to move forward, the next three have an accelerated, almost dance like quality. Scriabin once characterized it as an "orgiastic dance on corpses" after the "unhealthy eroticism and perversity" of the beginning. Pervez Mody plunges these musically mystical night shadows into a magically dark, almost Bengali light. He immerses himself in the special pull of these sound poems for piano, and in their propensity for ecstasy, which he highlights in a highly dramatic manner, without sacrificing transparency or plasticity. Alexander Scriabin would certainly have experienced a mystic-musical pleasure listening to these fascinating, willful interpretations, which are also highly recommended for Scriabin beginners.