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SCENE



04/18-(4)

Grigori Frid (1915 – 2012)
Clarinet Sonatas

John Finucane, clarinet
Elisaveta Blumina, piano

1 Hybrid-SACD

MDG 903 2069-6

UPC-Code:



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RECORDING

LC 06768

Political Commitment

Grigory Frid's politically and morally ambitious operas have made him known to a broader public even outside his native Russia. His chamber music is not so popular, but it too holds discoveries in store, as John Finucane and Elisaveta Blumina impressively demonstrate on this recording premiere of his two clarinet sonatas. Musical wit, tonal beauty, and virtuosity in the treatment of tonality and instrumentation reveal a compositional talent stimulated by exchanges with the greatest of Frid's times.

Musical Environment

This did not come about by mere chance. When Frid established the Moscow Youth Music Club rather precisely midway through his long life of almost a hundred years, the beneficial effect of this cultural classical oasis in the midst of the oppressive Soviet present could not yet be foreseen. Schnittke, Gubaidulina, Denisov, and Kancheli had their works performed there, and world stars of the present and future like Shostakovich, Gilels, Bashmet, and Richter were guests. Even when he was a boy, Frid was exposed to this special atmosphere: Nathan Milstein and Vladimir Horowitz played duets at his parents' home.

Multitalented Development

However, music was not the only thing in Frid's creative life. During his later years he began to paint in oil, and several one-man exhibitions attest to the high quality of his sculptures. And at an age when others go into retirement, Frid began to write essays on music, memoirs, and a thick novel. Until the end of his life he directed the Moscow Youth Music club, and today it bears his name!

Productive Fulfillment

Elisaveta Blumina is especially fond of much too little known music from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. She received an ECHO Klassik award for her trio recording with works by Françaix, Poulenc, and Previn. With John Finucane she now continues this commitment; recorded in the finest Super Audio CD quality, this new discovery will make all your listening dreams come true!

Francis Poulenc : Trio op. 43
Jean Françaix : Trio (1994)
André Previn : Trio (1996)
Ensemble Blumina
MDG 903 1827-6 (Hybrid-SACD)

