

MARC-ANDRÉ HAMELIN

PIANIST

Acclaim for the March 2007 release on Hyperion, HAYDN; Piano Sonatas

'Hamelin kicks off with the late C major sonata, H50, nailing his virtuoso credentials firmly to the mast with a mercurial account of its opening movement ... Hamelin's playing is dazzling ... These are altogether splendid performances ... These beautifully recorded performances can't be recommended too highly'

BBC Music Magazine

'The ever-phenomenal Marc-André Hamelin breaks out into the light with a two-disc set of Haydn sonatas ... These are astonishing performances ... Hyperion's sound and presentation are, as always, immaculate'

Gramophone

'Hamelin's gift for making light of complex textures and technically taxing writing is here harnessed to music of Classical clarity and economy. It is without doubt one of his finest achievements - and that's saying something. This cleverly chosen selection of diverse character is played with masterly resourcefulness. Hamelin can do deadpan humour (the finale of no. 40) and brilliant note-spinning (No 32) like few others, but also finds a truly affecting wistfulness in some of the slow movements. Superbly recorded, this is a life-enhancing release'

Classic FM magazine

'Marc-André Hamelin's virtuosity is in a different league altogether. The pearly evenness of his touch, his immaculate negotiation of even the trickiest of figurations and nonchalant despatch of semiquavers at the highest velocity, indulges the physical exhilaration of Haydn's playful inspiration in a way unmatched by any pianist past or present ... Even Hamelin has made few discs to equal this and none finer'

International Piano magazine

'For those interested in Haydn (which should include everyone who cares about music) this is a particularly valuable release ... every work on this set is worthy of repeated hearings ... Hamelin is a stylish and accomplished pianist. His tone is aptly lean with no untoward use of the sustaining pedal or imposition of an undue rupturing of pulse. His runs are immaculate, even in the most rapidly articulated passages, and textures are always sharply focused ... A special virtue of this release is the inclusion of an essay by Richard Wigmore. Providing cogent information that touches a variety of issues impossible to glean from a single source, it stands, in effect, as a model of what insert notes should be and rarely are. Throughout both CDs the sound is ideal'

International Record Review

'Almost two and a half hours of sublime Haydn piano sonatas, superb Hyperion sound, two discs for the price of one, and the talented and technically wonderful Marc-André Hamelin in the piano chair. Does a disc package come any more self-recommending than this? Hamelin approaches these works with great insight and affection ... the pianist's infinitely subtle playing is alive to every nuance ... Hamelin unerringly brings the listener face to face with Haydn's genius'

HMV Choice

'Marc-André Hamelin joyfully tackles ten of the later sonatas on his generously presented two-for-one release from Hyperion, and one cannot but be intoxicated by such happy piano playing'

Pianist magazine

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