

INGRID FLITER

Chopin: Piano Works

Piano Sonata No. 3
Ballade No. 4
Waltzes – Mazurkas
Barcarolle

EMI Classics CD 5099951489922

International Piano
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REVIEWS



Chopin Piano Sonata no.3 in B minor op.58. Three Mazurkas op.59. Barcarolle op.60. Grand valse brillante op.18. 3 Waltzes op.64. Ballade no.4 in F minor op.52. **Ingrid Fliter** (pf).

EMI Classics 5148992, 76 minutes

The Argentinean pianist Ingrid Fliter was awarded the rare honour of a Gilmore Artist Award in 2006 (she was also Silver Medallist at the 2000 Warsaw Competition). The present release is the first fruit of an exclusive EMI contract and was preceded by a download of several of the pieces (which added the Impromptu in C sharp minor).

The Third Sonata is quite a mountain to climb, given competition in the form of Lipatti, Pollini and Uchida. Fliter acquits herself well. There is much tenderness to the first movement, delivered in a pliable fashion that never loses sight of harmonic goals. The Scherzo begins with some stunningly mercurial finger definition, while later contrasts are daringly indulgent. The Largo combines sweetness with heartbreaking fragility.

The three Mazurkas that make up op.59 are despatched with intimacy. Fliter plays them with a quiet confidence that implies she has lived with them for longer than her tender years would allow. The progressively increasing tempo indications enable the set to emerge as a blossoming entity culminating in teasing. Fliter tracks the Barcarolle's natural ebb and flow well. Here her clarity, especially in the inner voices, is noteworthy in a piece that can invite over-peddalling, and although she has yet to acquire the magnetic qualities of, say, an Arrau, she does capture the work's greatness.

The op.18 Waltz provides glittering, suave contrast; her 'Minute' Waltz is both fluent and light – suavité seems to be the keyword for the op.64 Waltzes. And finally, the Fourth Ballade – twilit Chopin – the very antithesis of Richter's steel core.

This is not Fliter's first Chopin release – there is more on the VAI label. But this is her highest profile issue so far, and it heralds a relationship with EMI that promises much.

COLIN CLARKE