



E. Grieg: Lyric Pieces

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The notes for this disc by pianist Hideyo Harada of Grieg's Lyric Pieces describes her performance as "a poetry reading in music...a dramatic arrangement, with subtle shifts and abrupt contrast, with hues, forms, and characters." Fortunately for her, she backs that claim up with a thoroughly convincing and satisfying recital. Harada certainly has the virtuoso technique to accomplish it. Her poise, balance, and articulation are essentially flawless, and her sheer speed is often quite breathtaking. Though her attack can be overwhelming, her touch can also be soft and her tone is always subtle. Also, Harada's arrangement of these 22 pieces excerpted from 10 separate volumes has the subliminal yet palpable narrative to sustain it. Her program's ebb, flow, and swell describe the rise, fall, and triumph of an incredibly intense emotional experience that, whatever it may be, can only be represented in music. Any one piece at random is affecting, several in a row are moving, and the whole disc from start to finish is absolutely cathartic. Audite's super audio sound is as intimate as a whisper.