Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau sings Beethoven and Mahler and Schumann duos with Julia Varady

aud 95.636

EAN: 4022143956361

4 0 2 2 1 4 3 9 5 6 3 6 1

Fanfare (Lynn René Bayley - 2010.09.01)

Audite's Fischer-Dieskau series continues with this disc, which is not only interesting but a winner in every respect. The 1951 Beethoven and 1953 Mahler songs with Hertha Klust on piano make interesting comparisons with his later versions: slower, sensitive to the text, yet less subtle in phrasing and rhythmic variation. What's interesting is that, here at least, his lower range sounds richer than usual, and he sings a fairly good trill in Lob des hohen Verstandes. On balance, Klust was a serviceable but unimaginative accompanist, which may have something to do with the lack of subtlety in phrasing.

Pride of place, however, goes to the Schumann duets, a dozen of them with wife Julia Varady. They are both in wonderful voice and were clearly enjoying themselves. Cord Garben is a somewhat livelier accompanist than Klust, and the sound quality is first-rate. Of course, these are not among the deepest or most interesting of Schumann's songs, but they are not without interest either. One revels in their zest and charm, and perhaps because they are lowered in pitch to accommodate Fischer-Dieskau (they were written for soprano and tenor), Varady's voice has an unaccustomed mellowness of timbre that is a perfect match for her husband. Again, Audite has given us the German texts but no translations.

»audite« Ludger Böckenhoff • Tel.: +49 (0)5231-870320 • Fax: +49 (0)5231-870321 • info@audite.de • www.audite.de