

Classical round-up, Jan 15

Brahms, Clara Schumann - Organ Works

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Lawo LWC1023

This useful and impressive disc contains all Brahms's organ music — not much in total, but including his last work, the 11 Chorale Preludes, Op 122, which was published posthumously. As indeed were the early (1856) pair of Preludes and Fugues in, respectively, A minor and G minor, opening the sequence. They are brilliant, flamboyant essays, but the free-standing A flat Fugue and the Chorale Prelude and Fugue on O Traurigkeit, o Herzeleid have an introspection presaging the meditative and fascinating Op 122 pieces. A prelude and fugue by Clara Schumann make a nice transition to the music Brahms produced in the aftermath of her death. *PD*