

New Issues

DAN DEAN

VOCALIZE

DANDEAN DDM2024A

RACHMANINOFF: 14 ROMANCES, VOCALIZE OPUS 34, NO.14/ PROKOFIEV: TOCCATA IN D MINOR, OPUS 11/ COUPERIN: LES BARRICADES MYSTERIEUSES/ STRAVINSKY: L'HISTOIRE DU SOLDAT, TRIUMPHAL MARCH OF THE DEVIL/ HOLST: SUITE 1, MVT. 2, INTERLUDE/ PROKOFIEV: MONTAGUES AND CAPULETS/ FAURE: PAVANE IN F# MINOR, OPUS 50/ RACHMANINOFF: PRELUDE IN G MIN, OPUS 23, NO.5/ PROKOFIEV: L'AMOUR DES TRIOS ORANGES: MARCHE, OPUS 33/ KNOPFLER: GOING HOME (THEME OF LOCAL HERO) 40:00 MERCER ISLAND, WA 10/3/21 - 3/3/23

Dan Dean Vcl, fretless bass, whistle

Originally I felt woefully unqualified to review Dan Dean's latest cd "Vocalize" due to its classical content. However I found myself so captivated by his presentation that I now view it as a door opening experience. If I had to categorize it I'd call it creative music that transcends being labeled, in a sense liberated from the confines of genre.

What Dean has done is single handedly perform, record and engineer ten classical pieces using his voice, fretless electric bass and lots of technical wizardry. We journey through the works of Rachmaninoff, Prokofiev, Couperin, Stravinsky, Holst, Faure, and Knopfler. Starting with Rachmaninoff's "Vocalize Opus 34" Dan uses his voice to present multiple vocal tracks, giving the effect of a choir with accompaniment. The end result is simply stunning. Prokofiev's "Toccata in D minor, Opus 11" is another fine example, layering his voice to deliver an up tempo, magically imaginative barrage of sound, color and texture. Rachmaninoff's "Prelude in G minor" has multiple layers of vocal tracks articulating this rhythmically active piece with lots of drama. Gabriel Faure's "Pavane in F# minor, Opus 50" is another fine especially rich offering with multiple voices of different timbre weaving together to create a sonic landscape of brilliance. I was especially moved by Mark Knopfler's "Going Home". The piece itself is absolutely gorgeous and Dan honors that elegance with the highest degree of care. It should not be overlooked that Dan is a masterful bassist. His solo on this piece with the fretless electric bass is absolute perfection.

So with the extraordinary artistic and technical skill demonstrated by Dan Dean on "Vocalize" the listener can surely be taken away by this incredible music. Regardless of whether your a Jazz or Classical listener your in store for a blissful musical experience. Dan Dean's "Vocalize" is an amazing achievement and one of my favorites for 2024. Sent from my iPad.

Frank Kohl