

Ingrid Fliter

Classical CD of the week



Chopin: Complete Waltzes Ingrid Fliter (piano)

EMI 6 98351 2 **★★★★★**

◉ The Argentinian pianist Ingrid Fliter was born to play Chopin. He is the composer with whom her name is most closely associated, and this second CD for EMI is devoted entirely to his works, in this case all the waltzes.

It does not require the keenest eye to spot that Fliter included the three waltzes of Op 64 and the one of Op 18 in the all-Chopin programme on her first disc released last year (EMI 5 148992 2), but



Fliter fuses poise and insight

here they are set in the context of another 16 and make a captivating sequence.

Fliter's playing blends an innate feel for style with imagination. Subtle inflections of tonal shading and rhythm enhance the music's sense of spontaneous

invention. Equally essential to these interpretations are an appreciation of the finely balanced proportions of these miniatures and a judicious fusion of poise and insights into the warmth of heart that the music embodies. Famous waltzes

such as the "Brillante" ones of Op 18 and Op 34 Nos 1 and 3 exude joy; the "Minute Waltz" Op 64 No 1 has a glowing freshness, graced as it is with Fliter's limpid tone and her natural pacing. Dexterity is not deployed as an end in itself here. Rather, there is a consistent impression that Fliter uses her technique with discretion as a means to finding the nub and scope of expression that Chopin distilled in these pieces.

More soulful waltzes, such as the others in the Op 64 set or the two of Op 69, are shaped with delicate reflectiveness, with shifts into more robust, more active ideas sensitively judged. The D flat waltz Op 70 No 3 perfectly exemplifies the singing line that Fliter brings to her playing throughout this cherishable disc.

Geoffrey Norris