

DVD REVIEW:

ARTIST: Andreas Schaerer

TITLE: Hildegard Lernt Fliegen

LABEL: Enja DVD 7750

TUNES: Suite For Murderers and Drinkers/ Brabblers/ Knock Code 3/ Seldom Was Covered With Snow and an Old Oak/ Don Clemenza/ Rimze Khala Rimze/ Rezitan Purije Purije/ Encore Mockbae 1:07:44

PERSONNEL: Andreas Schaerer, vcl, composer; Mathias Wenger, as ss; Benedikt Reising, as, bari s, bass cl; Andreas Tschopp tbn, tba; Marco Muller, bass; Christoph Steiner, d, marimba, typewriter Gottingen, October 9, 2013

Hildegard really flies!

I am somewhat familiar with Schaerer as having reviewed one of his CDs recently. On that CD he used mostly vocalese techniques which I love. Here he does some of that here but also sings straight in what I hear as in three languages: German, French and English. The opening suite, which goes on for some fifteen minutes, and in which he uses all three languages, reminds me a bit of Kurt Weill with its theatrical aspects, but also features excellent ensemble playing as well as solos by all hornmen, and Muller, with Muller and Steiner proving excellent support. In one of the transition sections of the Suite, the two rhythm players do a great duet.

“Brabblers” is a virtuoso vocal by Schaerer where he keeps a drum beat going while he does all kinds of other effects over and around it. This piece is a master class in using one’s voice.

“Seldom” begins with Steiner playing a rhythmic pattern with two fingers on the typewriter, which gets appropriate laughs from the audience, and then band comes in with Steiner moving to brushes on snare, but also moves back to the typewriter to play with the bass clarinet behind Schaerer’s vocal, as well as behind Reising’s solo. And after the song is over, Schaerer reads the nonsense that Steiner typed, with appropriate rhythm and facial expressions, which leads into the next piece. And then we get a trio beginning with a long solo by Muller, and with Schaerer vocalizing a trumpet part with Tschopp on trombone.

The encore features the horn players on wooden flutes and Steiner on kalimba.

On a final note, readers of my reviews know how critical I can be of drummers. Here, watching Steiner was a delight. He does a great solo on “Purije”. I loved his use of a towel on the snare during a solo by Wenger, which reminded me of Han Bennink.

This DVD is really great. Just go get it!

Bernie Koenig

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