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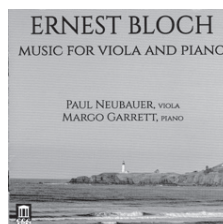
CD/DVD Reviews

by Andrew Lorenz

ERNEST BLOCH

Music for Viola & Piano

Paul Neubauer, vla, Margo Garrett, pno
DELOS DE 3498



Wonderful music magnificently played.

However, the story of this CD is quite intriguing. Over a three day period in 2001 Neubauer and Garrett recorded all the works for viola by Ernest Bloch. Then they were told that the digital audio tapes that were used for this recording were lost. Years later they resurfaced and we now have the pleasure of hearing these fine performances.

The major work in the program is the Suite for Viola and Piano which was awarded first prize in the Berkshire Chamber Music Festival Competition in 1919. Oscar Sonneck, editor of *The Musical Quarterly*, declared that "Bloch has given us the greatest work for viola in musical literature" The Suite for Viola Solo (1958) is inspired by J. S. Bach. The music breaks off dramatically as Bloch was unable to finish the piece because of his final illness. Interestingly the final two works, Suite Hébraïque and Meditation and Processional were originally called *Five Jewish Pieces* (1950). The musicianship is absolutely first class. The chemistry, exuberance and ensemble playing between these players are very exciting. You will not find a better recording of these works in the catalogue.