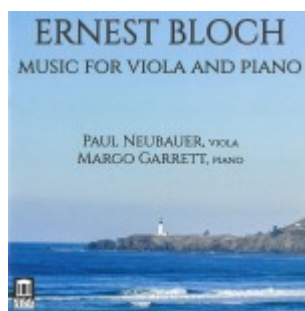

Strings Attached - May 2018

Written by Terry Robbins

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There is an interesting story behind the recent release of **Ernest Bloch Music for Viola and Piano (Delos DE 3498 delosmusic.com)**. Violist **Paul Neubauer** and pianist **Margo Garrett** spent three days in 2001 recording all of Bloch's music for viola and piano, only for the digital audio tapes to go missing. When they resurfaced a while ago the performers were thrilled to find them not only salvageable but also featuring playing that represents their best efforts to bring these works to life.

And what playing it is! Both performers are superb in the major work on the CD, the four-movement Suite for Viola and Piano from 1919, described in The Musical Quarterly as "...one of the most significant and powerful works of our time."

The other works on the disc are the short, unfinished Sonata for Viola Solo from 1958, the year of Bloch's death, and the Suite hébraïque and the Meditation and Processional, originally written as Five Jewish Pieces in 1951 but reconfigured into two independent works and published separately.

Neubauer has a wonderful fullness to his playing, with Garrett's accompaniment of an equally high standard. There is no hint of any problem with the source tapes.