

AUTUMN ELEGY

CASTELNUOVO-TEDESCO: *Capriccio Diabolico*. COBLE: *Autumn Elegy*. RODRIGO: *Elogio de la Guitarra*; *En Los Trigales*. YOCOH: *Variations on Sakura*. KOSHKIN: *The Fall of Birds*.

Charles Mokotoff

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This recital is made up of mostly large-scale 20th-century pieces, beginning with the technically demanding *Capriccio Diabolico*, a work largely unplayed nowadays, as unfortunately is the case with many other works by this fine composer. Mokotoff despatches the work as if it had little or no difficulties and his rhapsodic way with some of the tempi and rhythms is most engaging, and a really successful interpretation. William Coble (born 1959) is a new name to me. This premiere recording of his *Autumn Elegy* written in 1983 is excellent, the music is sad and reflective one minute and angry the next and written in a modern/friendly idiom that left me wanting more. The Rodrigo pair needs careful handling (as does much of the guitar music by this composer, as it is easy to make a complete hash of it, whilst still apparently playing all the correct notes). The *Sonata Elogio de la Guitarra* has had a relatively mixed innings with recordings. I am happy to confirm that Mokotoff does the piece justice especially in the problematic final movement. His *En Los Trigales* is equally successful, being playful and technically excellent throughout. The Yocoh provides a welcome few minutes of utter calm whilst the disturbing *Fall of Birds* a rarely recorded work of utter excellence gets a truly monumental performance.

I loved this CD. Fabulous playing, excellent and well thought out interpretations and a CD to really go out and buy.

Chris Dumigan