



AMERICAN RECORD GUIDE

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Humoresques

Dvorak, Reger, Rachmaninoff, Schumann

Daria Rabotkina

MSR 1662—68 minutes

What better to introduce a program called “Humoresque” than a photograph of the artist looking her pixieish or witty best while sporting a blowsy mass of tousled hair. This Russian born pianist attended the Mannes School of Music in New York as a student of Vladimir Feltsman and most recently joined the faculty of Texas State University. She also contributes her own interesting program notes.

Opening with Dvorak’s delightfully engaging 8 Humoresques, Rabotkina moves to 5 by Max Reger that are just as wonderful and deserving of more frequent performances. She ably captures the spirit of each piece and makes us smile often at her infectious joy in performing them.

Rachmaninoff’s brief Op.10:5 gives us pause to reflect on her sterling technique, and Schumann’s seldom performed set continues to be a favorite of this reviewer. How perfectly she executes the false starts of the second piece, and what clarity and beauty the engineers have brought to their task. It would be difficult to keep this one off my best of the year list.

Alan Becker

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