

MUSIC WEB INTERNATIONAL

Letter to Webmaster Len Mullenger

Mr Mullenger,

I do suggest that you remove this review of Helene Grimaud playing Rachmaninonv's Piano Concerto no 2 with the RPO under Jesus Lopez-Cobos from your site. The review is absurd and untrue. It makes your reviewer a fool and undermines any value or credibility that your site might have.

Your reviewer says that the performance of this concerto is beset with faults and is curiously reticent; that there is no asserted dynamism and a lack of focus and tension; that Grimaud has a small tone and that the music's vitality is sadly missing.

All of this is totally wrong. Opinion is one thing; fact is something else. Get your reviewer to follow the work in the score.

I followed the performance with the score and apart from the big left hand chords being arpeggiated at the beginning, the performance is very fine and highly commendable. I have played this concerto myself many times. Grimaud has the right passion and the balance is excellent. Her finger-work is impeccably clear and her articulation is faultless. The rhythms are well caught. The range of dynamics is exactly right as per the score. The alla marcia section is tremendous.

The slow movement captures all the nuances and beauty to perfection.

The finale is a glorious celebration and a triumph of music and performance. The pianism is crisp and delightful.

Her range of dynamics is superb and faithful to the score.

There is no vitality missing. There is no reticence. The performance is focused and the tension, as required, is well-judged. To say that her tone is small is as daft as saying that the Yeti has just given birth to 42 pups in Kensington.

Your site is further becoming a laughing stock to a growing number of people and, sadly, that reflects on you.

I know I will be ignored and pilloried but we have to be honest and I do know the music I write about.

While I accept that the people of this site are sincere, that is no substitute for reviewers who are musicians and know what they are talking about. Find good reviewers.

David Wright

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