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Novedades discográficas



Actualidad

Games

Artículos

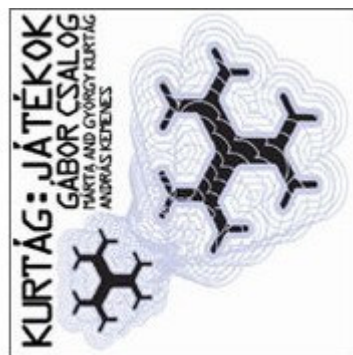
Críticas

Servicios



Kurtág: *Játékok*. György Kurtág. *Játékok* (selection from Volumes I to VIII). Gábor Csalog; András Kemenes; Márta Kurtág; György Kurtág, piano. Ha Neul-Bit; Aliz Asztalos, voice. Recorded and mixed by Péter Aczél and András Wilhelm. Sound engineer: Károly Horváth. Recording sponsored by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, the National Cultural Fund of Hungary, and the Artisjus Music Foundation. One compact disc DDD, total playing time 65 minutes. Recorded at Studio 22 of the Hungarian Radio, Budapest, 2003-2005. Budapest Music Center BMC CD 123.

[Michael Lukey](#)



Játékok, or 'Games', is described in the booklet notes accompanying this CD as "not only an anthology of Kurtág's musical language, or some kind of guidebook to the musical world of the composer, but a living organism; it has been growing continuously, and long ago became Kurtág's musical workshop...". Indeed, György Kurtág began this series of compositions over thirty years ago, when such "creation of order between a few notes" helped relieve the creative block he had suffered from in the early 1970s. The current disc consists of a selection of pieces from the complete recording of *Játékok*, which is currently in progress,

and contains a number of world premières.

Kurtág's art is undoubtedly an enigmatic one, combining modernism with Hungarian folk elements and Romanticism to produce music that is almost always surprising in one way or another. Work on *Játékok* began after Kurtág had spent a period of time analytically reviewing the work of other composers, and in its early stages it was considered a "series of comments on musical questions left open by other composers". The first volume also aimed to provide a set of 'alternative' studies for children, in which they were encouraged to explore the piano in quite unusual (yet natural) ways – the third and fourth tracks, for example, are titled 'Elbows' and 'Palm Stroke'. Later volumes move away from this pedagogical objective, and instead the pieces form 'diary-like intimacies' of remembrances, portraits, personal messages, and inspirations.

Many of the pieces in *Játékok* are very short – a glance at the track times suggests that over half of the compositions on this CD are under a minute in length, with several shorter than thirty seconds (and a handful shorter than twenty seconds!). Although some works are undeniably (and perhaps inevitably) slight, I suspect that many listeners may be surprised at the effectiveness of much of this music. Some, like me, may even end up finding themselves humming 'Jumping Fifths', etc.!

The vast majority of the fifty-eight tracks involve Hungarian pianist Gábor Csalog, playing either solo or in duet with András Kemenes. A handful of other pianists/vocalists, including the composer and his wife Márta, perform the remaining pieces.

Csalog enrolled in the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music at the age of eleven, and had such masters as Zoltán Kocsis and András Schiff among his teachers. His recent discs of Liszt/Ligeti, in which the similarities between the two composers' music was brilliantly highlighted, and of Scriabin have shown him to be a pianist of formidable intelligence and technique. Both characteristics are on display throughout this disc,

with fine-tuned control of sound and dynamics, and the insight to produce a large-scale effect from such small-scale pieces. It is noteworthy that Csalog has studied and worked with György Kurtág since 1980, and has been described as an "authentic" performer of his works. Throughout, the recorded piano sound is clear and realistic.

The disc concludes with one of Kurtág's Bach transcriptions for four hands: the 'Sonatina' of the *Actus Tragicus cantata*, BWV 106, played by György and Márta. The fidelity to the original score, and the clarity of counterpoint, result in Kurtág's Bach transcriptions being of a comparable quality to those of Busoni. This, combined with the ecstatic yet deeply intimate playing (perhaps enhanced by the warm-sounding upright piano used) by composer and wife, is a lovely ending to an unusual and interesting recording. My personal opinion is that the pieces of *Játékok* work best when heard in relatively small collections – nevertheless, with this qualification, I would recommend this CD both to Kurtág enthusiasts and to those who are new to the composer's music.

This CD has been sent to be reviewed by [Diverdi](#).

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Temas relacionados

[György Kurtág](#), [Gábor Csalog](#), [András Kemenes](#)

Lo que opinan los lectores

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Comentario:

Enviar

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