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Schubert Piano Sonatas (Music Guides)



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Customer Reviews

The BBC Music Guides series is a collection of compact musical guidebooks covering selected genres of the classical repertory. Many of the volumes were and are of high quality, and Philip Radcliffe's survey of Franz Schubert's piano sonatas is a representative example. Radcliffe discusses all of the composer's completed piano sonatas, eleven in all, plus several of the important unfinished works, such as the two-movement work in C major, D. 840. In his more extended study of the Beethoven string quartets the author had proved himself a master at conveying the important tonal and structural aspects, as well as the spirit, of a classical work in clear and succinct prose, and "Schubert Piano Sonatas" provides more of the same. Musical examples are relatively few but chosen well. Readers will need a core of musical literacy in order to grasp all of Radcliffe's points, but for those with the requisite knowledge this is a most rewarding and pleasurable read and will encourage them either to return to recordings and performances, or seek them out for the first time.

A really excellent survey of the Schubert piano sonatas. Not as in-depth as I would like, but it is a survey.

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