

Yael Weiss
piano
CD Review - *88 Keys to Joy*

"Her playing has depth... and her technique is impeccable."

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CHOPIN: Barcarolle, Op. 60; Mazurkas; SIVAN/BELLINI: Concert Paraphrase on "Tutto è giola" from *La Sonnambula*; SIVAN: Improvisations on Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"; SCARLATTI: Sonatas; BACH: Presto; BACH-BUSONI: In dir ist Freude; BRAHMS-BUSONI: Herzlich tut mich erfreun; BEETHOVEN: Bagatelle, Op. 126, No.4; MOZART: Eine Kleine Gigue, K. 574; CHABRIER: *Joyeuse Marche*; PERSICHETTI: "Make Me Drunken With Deep Red Torrents of Joy", from *Poems*, Vol. II; DAVICO: "...en écoutant la joyeuse pluie de mars..." from *Impressions d'Intérieur*; DEBUSSY: *L'isle joyeuse*. Yael Weiss, piano. KOCH 7651. 71 minutes.

Pianist Yael Weiss' disc is called *88 Keys to Joy*, because, as you can probably tell by the selections, all of the music takes "joy" as a theme. Her playing has depth, even within the relatively narrow expressive range given here, and her technique is impeccable.

Among the newer pieces, Vincent Persichetti's "Make Me Drunken With Deep Red Torrents of Joy" stands out, with its delicate figurations and sometimes surprising harmonic and melodic turns. Ms. Weiss' reading of Claude Debussy's *L'isle joyeuse* is light on its feet and idiomatically atmospheric.

This fine disc is another example of the kind innovative, thematic programming that I hope to continue to see in concerts and on recordings.

– Steve Hicken