

## Weiss-Kaplan-Newman Trio

*Brahms/Smetana*

*CD Review*

***“A terrific performance, able to stand with the best.”***

### American Record Guide

March-April 2012



BRAHMS: Trio 1  
SMETANA: Trio  
Weiss-Kaplan-Newman Trio  
Bridge 9362—66 minutes

This ensemble, consisting of pianist Yael Weiss, violinist Mark Kaplan, and cellist Clancy Newman, is only a few years old; but if this recording is any indication, we should hope they have a long future together.

I gave a lukewarm reception to the Hyperion Trio doing this Brahms work, so this recording comes as welcome reassurance that my hearing hasn't become jaundiced!

The Weiss-Kaplan-Newman group plays the Brahms with great passion, combining moments of virtuosity with a rare concentration in the slow

movement. They are not afraid to adjust tempos noticeably, and they use evidence from Fanny Davies, a student of Clara Schumann, to justify their rhythmic freedom.

Their emotional range is very wide, and I was particularly impressed with Weiss's soft playing in the Adagio and her clean passagework in the finale. A terrific performance, able to stand with the best.

The Smetana is a strong piece, full of passion and attractive themes. It was written in 1855 after the death of Smetana's daughter. Much of the passion is achieved through very difficult writing, particularly for piano in the finale, and this Trio meets every challenge.

Combined with the Brahms, then, this makes an excellent release all around, worthy of adding to your collection even if it duplicates another recording of the Brahms.

PAUL L. ALTHOUSE