



Positive Feedback ISSUE

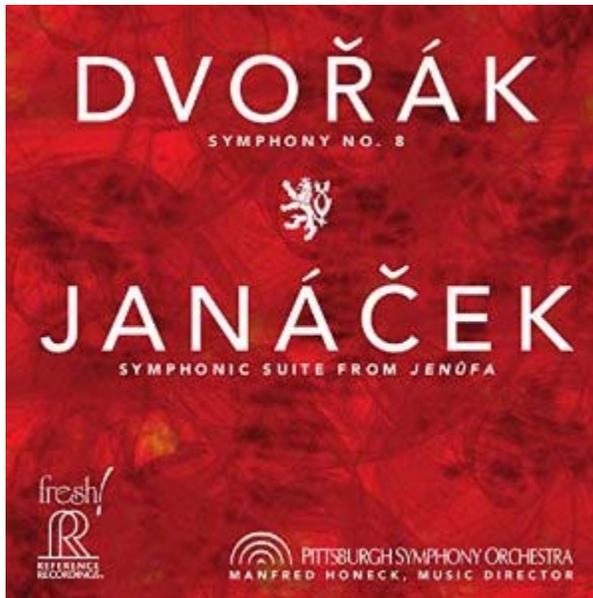
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Classical Releases

by Karl Lozier



Antonin Dvorak, Symphony No.8. Leos Janacek. Jenufa Symphonic Suite. Orchestra: Pittsburg Symphony. Conductor: Manfred Honeck. Reference Recordings #FR-710SACD Hybrid

It is truly nice to have the Pittsburg symphony back again after some previous delays. The orchestra has a great history supporting it that is not known well outside of the Pittsburg area; the full range of a large symphony orchestra does get to play and be reviewed in large symphonic pieces such as the outstanding Dvorak being reviewed here. There is plenty of beautiful melodies and often played in a relatively quiet sound range in this beautiful selection. The bigger instruments such as the cellos and trombones warn that they are getting ready to unleash their familiar power even though they are representing Dvorak and his home country Czechoslovakia and not Germany. The Slavic March in the middle of the first movement is notated with accents leaving no doubt that it is to be played in a very spirited style. Honeck who seems to prefer the title Music Director than Conductor and the orchestra respond to this particularly outstanding composition in such a way that it may be the best I've heard in the past many years. I

mean recorded or live; do not bother trying to find a better overall version or even a better recorded one, it just is that good.

Leos Janacek: Symphonic Suite from Jenufa: Recording info as above for Dvorak Symphony: Leos Janacek is usually thought of as the greatest Czech composer of the early twentieth century.

His career is definitely at least a bit unusual and he developed some styles or techniques of composition that are simply different in an original compositional style. His opera Jenufa introduced him to the musical world. He developed a very unique compositional style that is fascinating though beyond the scope of this brief review. I suggest some investigation to our interested deep thinking readers and musical lovers to simply go on a tangent here and investigate the unique compositional life of Leos Janacek. I think you will be rewarded spending time doing just that. The fine suite from his opera Jenufa is very well done with outstanding playing and audio quality. Once again the SACD layer is simply even better than the fine usual CD layer. I highly recommend the relatively short selection here and hope it will stimulate your appetite for more from Leos Janacek.

--Karl Lozier