

Fanfare Want List for Raymond Tuttle [2016]

Manfred Honeck's Beethoven, like Baldi's Debussy, helps you to recapture the shock of the new. There is nothing gimmicky or freakish about it, but I wasn't 10 seconds into this SACD before I sat up and took notice. The booklet contains Honeck's almost blow-by-blow description of both symphonies, and it is an opportunity for him to explain the small but often striking ways in which he has departed from tradition—not to be unfaithful to Beethoven, but, if possible, to be more faithful to Beethoven's intentions. And why not? Instruments, orchestras, performance spaces, musicians, and audiences all have changed since 1808, and if so much has changed, then it is reasonable for a conductor to compensate for these changes by making changes of his or her own. Even if you have a ton of Beethoven Fives and Sevens, this will not feel like a duplication!