
Double Bass CD Reviews

by **Marian Heckenberg**

BRAHMS AND HINDEMITH

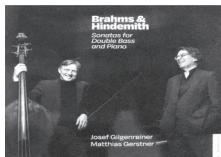
Sonatas for Double Bass & Piano

Josef Gilgenreiner (Double Bass)

Matthias Gerstner (Piano)

Austrian Gramophone AG0026 /LC

48665



Josef Gilgenreiner is a true double bass virtuoso and his collaboration with superb pianist Matthias Gerstner playing the Brahms E minor Cello Sonata and Hindemith's famous double bass composition transports the listener. Purists who know the Brahms cello sonata may need time to adjust to hearing this adapted version, but will quickly be wowed by bassist Gilgenreiner's mastery of this challenging work.

It is truly an uplifting experience to hear a world class double bassist perform a master work like the Brahms. There is no hint of the extreme technical challenge bassists face when adapting such a piece for an instrument that is twice the size than the original. This interpretation blooms with expressive lines, especially dark colours and stylish touches. The Hindemith is an important work for double bassists as few renowned composers have historically written for this giant of the string family. Gerstner effortlessly takes the listener through this fascinating work; the jazz influence and rhythmic intricacies combine with grace and humour while the tender slow movement pulls at the heartstrings. Gilgenreiner and Gerstner approach these works as equals creating authentic chamber music together. Their performance will charm and inspire.

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