

JOYCE DiDONATO | TIME FOR THREE KEVIN PUTS **EMILY** NO PRISONER BE

BOOKMARK

Orchestral Review

LALO; STRAUSS Tides of Dance (Franziska Pietsch)

Edouard(-Victoire-Antoine) Lalo Richard Strauss

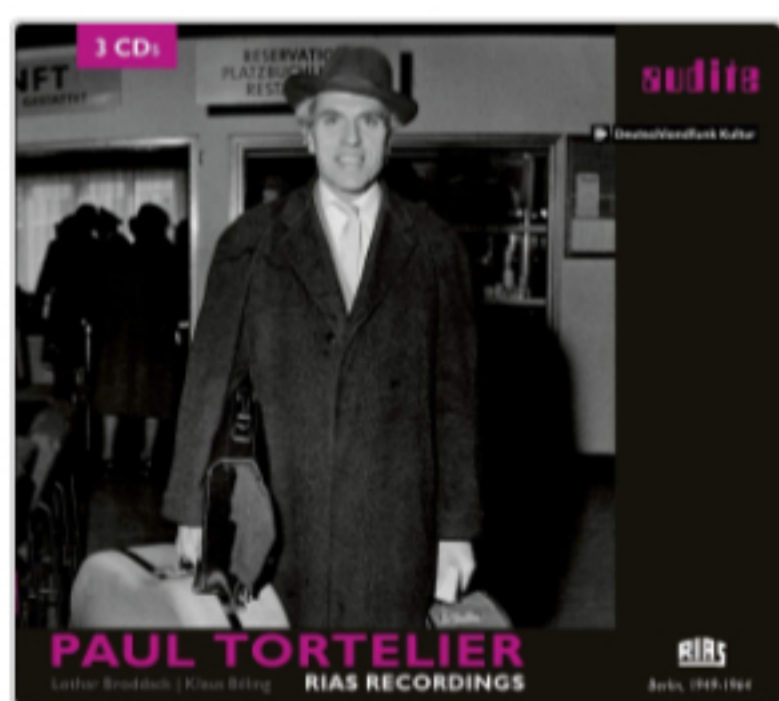
July 2025 | 1 min read

Rob Cowan



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Recommended Reviews



Paul Tortelier: RIAS Recordings

Back in April in the context of reviewing Renaud Capuçon's album of Strauss's violin music (DG, 4/25), having commended Jascha Heifetz (Sony Classical, RCA) as matchless in the Violin Sonata (which GDR-born Franziska Pietsch has recorded for Audite), I pointed out that, in my opinion, 'the Concerto ... has no such classic advocate'. Well, happily I can now eat my words, because with this flavourful, forthright performance this excellent violinist sets a standard previously denied this appealing early work on disc, confronting its many technical challenges head-on (swirling multiple-stops, etc) yet settling on its more lyrical passages with evident relish.

The Concerto's 'dance' element (the album is titled 'Tides of Dance') is the tarantella-style finale, where Capuçon is less visceral, more elegant than Pietsch. But in the 15'25" first movement, Pietsch lends the music added scale while Jonathan Pasternack with the Orquesta Ciudad de Granada punch at the notes with bags of energy. How clever to couple the Strauss with Lalo's Spanish-style virtuoso perennial, where Pietsch lets her fiery temperament off the leash, making her a sort of 'Carmen of the violin'.

The central Intermezzo (which not every recording includes) is especially impressive: time and again throughout the performance you sense the iron grip of Pietsch's bow, her lacerating attack, her sense of poetry. You'll need to visit Bronislaw Huberman in pre-war Vienna (under George Szell – Warner Classics) to find a performance (minus the Intermezzo, regrettably) that matches up.

I've already listened to this pleasantly resonant recording numerous times with unbounded pleasure and look forward to future releases featuring this excellent violinist. The Wieniawski and Glazunov Concertos, perhaps? Strongly recommended.

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Willows

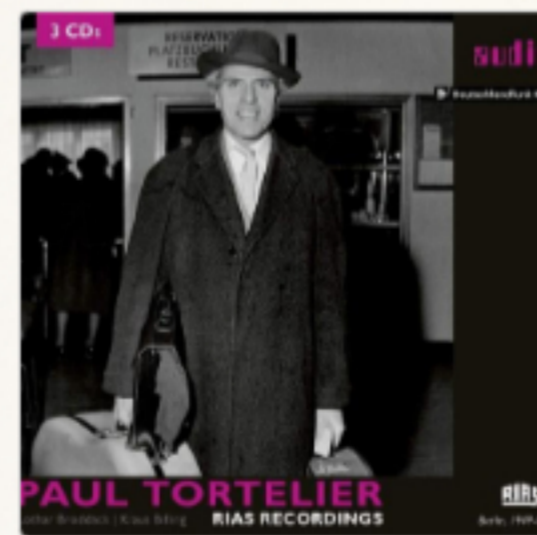


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