

celestial harmonies

mikalojus konstantinas Ćiurlionis
the complete piano music, vol. 3
nikolaus lahusen
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the artist

Recorded at Bavaria Studios, München, as a co-production between Celestial Harmonies and Bayerischer Rundfunk, this is volume three of the first-ever recording of the complete piano music of Mikalojus Konstantinas Ćiurlionis, performed by Nikolaus Lahusen.

Lahusen was born in Bremen, Germany, in 1960 and grew up in Mexico. His artistic development was supported by Edith Picht-Axenfeld, Christoph Eschenbach and Bruno Leonardo Gelber. Counted among the leading pianists of his generation, Lahusen has given concerts worldwide.

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For Celestial Harmonies, he has previously recorded **ORFF-SCHULWERK, VOL. 3: PIANO MUSIC (13106-2), THE COMPLETE WORKS OF M.K. ĆIURLIONIS, VOLS 1-2 (13184-2 & 13185-2), FRANZ SCHUBERT SONATA B FLAT MAJOR D. 960, 3 KLAVIERSTÜCKE D. 946 (13195-2), FRANZ SCHUBERT SONATA D MAJOR D. 850, 34 VALSES SENTIMENTALES D. 779 (13221-2) & FRANZ LISZT TRANSCRIPTIONS OF FRANZ SCHUBERT SONGS (13228-2).**

International radio and television stations have broadcast his concerts and recordings; his numerous recordings have been well received among music critics.

the project

Mikalojus Konstantinas Ćiurlionis (1875-1911) was born in the southern Lithuanian town of Varena, near Vilnius. Doubly talented, he was a visual-composer who could hear colours and see sounds and whose life was comprised of the close interaction between musical and artistic composition.

In his homeland of Lithuania, Ćiurlionis was celebrated as an exponent of musical modernism and the founder of a national school of music. Yet he was without doubt an avant-garde artist of European standing, an artistic visionary between the late Romantic and Modern ages. Many prominent personalities of that time—Romain Rolland, Ivor Stravinsky, Jacques Lipchitz, Isadora Duncan—were interested in Ćiurlionis.

Trained in Warsaw and Leipzig, he worked as a composer and painter in Warsaw, Vilnius and St. Petersburg. In the mere fifteen years prior to his untimely death in a Polish sanatorium in 1911, he produced an immense number of artistic and musical works including 200 paintings, 80 drawings and more than 270 musical compositions, about 170 of which were scored for solo piano.

This, the third recording in the series, introduces piano works from early and late compositional periods of Ćiurlionis. The beginning of the recording is devoted to the latter period. This sequence is grounded on the argument that the early works of the composer would be better understood and comprehended after familiarisation with the mature Ćiurlionis' style, since they point to the creative strivings of the composer. Early works are primarily a mirror of the cultural surrounding of a composer, exhibiting formation of a more personal style. Nevertheless, these youthful works already anticipate certain tendencies and elements of musical language of later Ćiurlionis. They also frequently delve into the melodic vocabulary of Lithuanian folk music, which with time permeated every layer of the composer's music.

