

One could hardly intuit from these fresh and flowing violin sonatas the obstacles their female composers had to face – family opposition for Mel Bonis in France and Ethel Smyth in England, institutional conservatism for Elfrieda Andrée in Sweden. It has taken a century and more for that initial prejudice to fall away, and they are now beginning to attract a fair hearing for their music. What ultimately matters, of course, is not whether composers are male or female but whether they write good music, and these three sonatas – melodically expansive, rhythmically vivacious, harmonically warm – point to the musical riches that further exploration of their creators' output will uncover.



TOCN 0013

FIRST LADIES Three Romantic Violin Sonatas

ELFRIDA ANDRÉE

(1841–1929)

Violin Sonata in B flat major (1872)*

- [1] I Allegro con spirito 5:24
- [2] II Andante cantabile 2:15
- [3] III Finale. Allegro moderato e risoluto 6:17

MEL BONIS

(1858–1937)

Violin Sonata in F sharp minor, Op. 112 (1922)

- [4] I Moderato 5:34
- [5] II Presto 3:13
- [6] III Lento (Thème populaire grec recueilli par Bourgault-Ducoudray) 4:58
- [7] IV Final. Con moto 6:11

ETHEL SMYTH

(1858–1944)

Violin Sonata in A minor, Op. 7 (1887)

- [8] I Allegro moderato 8:25
- [9] II Scherzo. Allegro grazioso 2:48
- [10] III Romanze. Andante grazioso 7:42
- [11] IV Finale. Allegro vivace 5:45

 24:40
 8:25
 2:48
 7:42
 5:45

TT 58:36

Annette-Barbara Vogel, violin

Durval Cesetti, piano

*FIRST RECORDING


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