

GRAMOPHONE

ISOUNDS OF AMERICA

RECORDINGS & EVENTS *A special eight-page section for readers in the US and Canada*

JS Bach • Beethoven

'Mostly Transcriptions, Vol 2'

JS Bach Preludes and Fugues - BWV532

(transcr Busoni); BWV543 (transcr Liszt, S462).

Violin Sonata No 5, BWV1018 - Adagio

(transcr Siloti). Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ,

BWV639/177 (transcr Busoni) Beethoven An die

ferne Geliebte, Op 98 (transcr Liszt, S469).

Piano Sonata No 111

Tien Hsieh *pf*

MSR Classics © MS1531 (71' • DDD)



transcriptions for MSR Classics with music by Bach and Beethoven as heard

The young Taiwanese-born pianist Tien Hsieh continues her series of piano

by pianistic titans Busoni, Liszt and Siloti, plus one original piece by their fellow titan Beethoven.

As a multiple prize-winner and already an experienced concert artist, Hsieh has her commanding way with Busoni and Liszt transcriptions of Bach's Preludes in D major and A minor, while she changes course easily and uses a 'less is more' philosophy to discover the full range of physical beauty in Siloti's adoring framing of the *Adagio* from Bach's Fifth Violin Sonata. She particularly excels in Liszt's transcription of Beethoven's song-cycle *An die ferne Geliebte*, its first recording in 10 years, 14 minutes of music that has been lost amid the profusion and popularity of Liszt's Schubert transcriptions. Hsieh catches spontaneously and joyously Beethoven's own open-hearted sweetness and nobility, and in doing so conveys a very

real sense of poetry being transformed into music.

It is a greater challenge to merge the dimensions of size and intimacy that Beethoven's Sonata Op 111 suggest and which truly compelling performances require. Hsieh begins with a miraculous, time-stretching phrasing of the opening bars, then is mostly content to lay out precisely the structural lines, applying great amplitude and warmth of phrasing, and letting the music unfold without haste – until, that is, a thrilling upsurge of movement into the chains of trills towards the end. The sound is full-range and natural. **Laurence Vittes**