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Classical CD of the Week

Mozart: Piano Concertos in C minor K491 and E flat major K482

***** (5 stars)

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By: Geoffery Norris



Alongside the imaginative links and contrasts that he forges in some of his exploratory recital programmes, the young Israeli pianist David Greilsammer has also proved to be a classical musician of exceptional probity and freshness. A 2006 disc of 3 early Mozart concertos (Naïve V5149) is here complemented by a new recording of two late ones, the E flat major K482 and the C minor K491. It

is a complete delight.

Greilsammer's blend of taste and invention is brought to bear on the cadenzas, which are his own and which he fashions in an 18th-century manner while allowing his own fancy to explore, embellish and mull over the musical material.

Greilsammer is joined here, as on his earlier disc, by the Suedama Ensemble, the chamber orchestra he formed in New York in 2005 and which spells Amadeus backwards.

But there is no need for any foreboding about gimmickry, because this is a polished group that brings individuality of personality to the voicing of instrumental lines and yet coalesces with unanimity of expressive purpose.

Vitality and the wise observance of classical perspective interact. Colours are distinct but intermingle and throw fascinating glints of light on the texture. There is no sense of the piano being "accompanied", but instead there is close collaboration in which all forces have their say in underlining the dramatic weight, the lyrical eloquence and the spiritedness of these two great concertos.

In league with his fellow musicians, whom he directs from the keyboard, Greilsammer brings dynamism, grace, rhythmic zest, thoughtful warmth and a feeling of spontaneity to the music, qualities that are irresistible and stylistically apt in equal measure.