

## **PRESS REVIEWS**

'An extraordinary cellist - charismatic, virtuosic, brimming with verve and poetry.'

***The Times***

'Matthew Sharp's singing raised the evening to a pitch of spiritual feverishness rarely encountered in either concert hall or theatre.'

***Independent on Sunday***

'Matthew Sharp's performance displays consummate theatrical invention...a commanding musical, vocal and theatrical presence.'

***The Guardian***

'Matthew Sharp was an hilarious Papageno - it is a gift of a part to an actor and Sharp is clearly as much an actor as a singer.'

***British Theatre Guide***

'...he held the breathless attention of the audience with his vivid, poignant performance... remarkable.'

***The Independent***

'a moving and visceral performance... Matthew Sharp's cello-playing is extraordinary.'

***New Routes Magazine***

'Matthew Sharp's performance was moving in the extreme.'

***The Independent***

'Bold, eloquent, nuanced.'

***The Guardian***

'Blisteringly virtuosic'

***International Record Review***

## **RECORDINGS**

### **Hans Gál Cello Concertino (world premiere recording, Avie)**

'More unusual repertoire arrives from the versatile cellist Matthew Sharp on the Avie label's latest excavation of music by Hans Gál (★★★★☆), another Jewish composer buffeted by the mid-20th century, but one with inner

reserves that allowed him to pour out lyrical beauties through his long life as though it were always 1901. Vividly captured in warm acoustics, Sharp's cello is beautifully stylish and heartfelt in Gál's two late solo suites and the first recording of the 1965 Concertino — sombre and wistful music, undeservedly forgotten.'

\*\*\*\* *The Times*

'Matthew Sharp is galvanic! A Jack Nicholson of the cello from a land more commonly associated with Hugh Grants.'

**WNYC**

'Magnificent and elegant...Sharp's no-holds-barred, radiant, earthy sound and all-vanquishing intensity.'

\*\*\*\*\* *WDR3*

'Cello soloist, Matthew Sharp, plays outstandingly throughout, with deep concentration and a telling blend of artistry and control. Striking are the vivid colours and glorious tone he produces...Sharp's passionate, intense tone has something in common with Shafran's.'

**MusicWeb International**

'With this recording, Sharp joins the select company of Harrell, Mork and Shafran.'

**Sinfonica**

'En 1944, Hans Gál avait écrit un vaste concerto pour violoncelle et orchestre, une œuvre marquée par la période tragique de la seconde guerre mondiale et enregistrée par Antonio Meneses pour Avie et, tout récemment, par Raphael Wallfisch pour CPO. Vingt ans plus tard, Gal revenait à la forme concertante avec ce concertino pour violoncelle et cordes écrit en 1965. On y retrouve le style tardif du compositeur viennois, désormais bien documenté par la série qu'Avie lui a consacrée ; un langage tonal qui mêle gravité dans le bel adagio central et une forme de tendresse douce-amère qui n'est pas sans rappeler le dernier Richard Strauss, celui des concertos pour instruments à vent. Encore une belle découverte (c'est un premier enregistrement mondial) à laquelle l'éditeur joint judicieusement les deux œuvres pour violoncelle seul composées en 1982 (Gál avait alors quatre-vingt-douze ans), la suite ayant été écrite pour le petit-fils de Gál, Simon Fox-Gál, maître d'œuvre et directeur artistique de cette résurrection discographique de l'œuvre de son grand-père. C'est à lui sans doute qu'on doit les touchantes photos qui ornent le livret de ce disque émouvant, magnifiquement défendu par Matthew Sharp, accompagné comme toujours

avec pertinence par Kenneth Woods, infatigable héraut de Hans Gál.' (Richard Wander).

***Clic Musique***

'...delivered by Matthew Sharp with intensity and beguiling ease.'

**\*\*\*\* *Concerti***

'Remarkably impassioned'

***The Strad***

### **Errollyn Wallen Cello Concerto (world premiere recording, NMC)**

'Five minutes into the gargantuan, rhapsodic cello solo that launches Errollyn Wallen's 2007 Cello Concerto, it's tempting to wonder whether it's really going to be a concerto at all. But so full-blooded, dramatic and supple is soloist Matthew Sharp's playing that it captures the attention right through to the end of the likeable, English pastoral-tinged work. It's very much his piece – as inspiration and dedicatee – and he attacks the hugely expressive solo line with just the kind of assertive, gushing energy that it needs to bring it truly to life.

A captivating release.'

***The Strad***

'Her Cello Concerto, in a commanding performance by Matthew Sharp, speaks fluent English pastoralism with a searching individual voice.'

***NPR - A Year Of Listening Desperately: 10 Classical Albums That Saved 2016***