

(CD 103) POLE - A MAGICAL JOURNEY INTO THE UNKNOWN



A short while ago I received CD 103 POLE and once again I am completely blown away by another new release!

I've listened to the entire CD twice so far, and focused on various sections during different listening sections, and am only now trying to find the words to describe the experience. First and foremost, the artistry and commitment that these first rate singers have given to Stockhausen's metamusical masterpiece is everywhere apparent, comparing as it does with Michael Vetter's stunning realization of the complete SPIRAL (CD 46), the perfect companion CD to this one.

I found myself going back to CD 15 containing the Boje/Eotvos recording, alongside the EMI release recorded 8 months later (December 1971) by the same artists, re-discovering this classic work from Stockhausen's *Freibrief an die Jugend* period (1968-1970) which culminated with POLE and EXPO (not yet recorded?).

This re-appraisal has given me an even deeper respect & admiration for this work, and mind you I had already loved both Boje/Eotvos readings!

The interplay between both singers is simply astounding. The sound, spatialization, and the 4 types of reverberation characteristics are all beautifully realized, clearly elucidating the intricate musical structure - in short:

a total musico-drammatico-artistic (metamusical) experience that completely re-captures the spirit of the time in which it was written, a time culminating with the 1970 Osaka World's Fair for which POLE was written.

A few details I'd like to mention: Section 5 contains some of the most beautiful 'formant singing' reminiscent of STIMMUNG; the ending (Section 7) is pure magic: at once playful and whimsical on HALLO, suddenly turning very mysterious at the very, very end as the music seems to dissipate into infinity...EXTRAORDINARY!

The liner notes are first rate, with each of the singers recounting their own personal experiences/revelations about POLE, corroborating my earlier comment on the important commitment these artists have clearly demonstrated.

Stockhausen music always demands commitment on the part of both performer and listener as he takes you into unprecedented regions (experiences), but what an extraordinary experience it always turns out to be!