

The Strad Issue: January 2013

Description: Be prepared for a non-stop emotional rollercoaster ride – and then relax

Musicians: Ani Aznavoorian (cello) Lera Auerbach (piano)

Composer: Auerbach

“Despite the astonishing performances, this disc of cello-and-piano works by US composer Lera Auerbach makes for exhausting listening. Her music lives at a relentless emotional extreme, and an air of grotesqueness or bitter irony lies behind much of what she writes. In the 24 Preludes (1999), for example, she takes gleeful delight in slowly destroying a pleasant cello melody with aggressive piano cluster chords, or in exaggerating Baroque or Romantic gestures to the point of ridiculousness. Moods are anguished and desolate, or angry and aggressive, with little in between.”

_David Kettle review in The Strad Issue 1/2013.