

LaScena Musicale

CRITIQUES REVIEWS

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★★★★★	INDISPENSABLE / A MUST!
★★★★☆	EXCELLENT / EXCELLENT
★★★☆☆	TRÈS BON / VERY GOOD
★★★☆☆	BON / GOOD
★★☆☆☆	PASSABLE / SO-SO
★☆☆☆☆	MAUVAIS / MEDIOCRE

\$	< 10 \$
\$\$	11–20 \$
\$\$\$	21–30 \$
\$\$\$\$	> 20 \$
\$\$\$\$\$	> 41 \$

CRITIQUES / REVIEWERS

NB	Normand Babin
RB	René Bricault
FC	Frédéric Cardin
EC	Éric Champagne
BD	Bruno Deschênes
AL	Alexandre Lazaridès
PER	Paul E. Robinson
CR	Camille Rondeau
JKS	Joseph K. So

MUSIQUE VOCALE

L'accordéoniste

Kimberly Barber, mezzo-soprano; Peter Tiefenbach, piano; Mary-Lou Vetere, accordion; The New Berlin Ensemble (Julie Baumgartel, violin; Paul Pulford, cello; Carol Bauman, percussion)

ACCCD09 (59 min 16 s)

★★★★★☆☆ \$\$

The album title, *L'accordéoniste*, comes from one of the songs on the disc immortalized by the great Edith Piaf. It is also the name of this new Canadian group of several very talented classical artists. It may seem a little surprising that, given her purely classical training, mezzo Kimberly Barber, a noted Octavian, Komponist, Xerxes and Regina, has chosen French and German cabaret songs of Weill, Hollaender, Eisler and Bienert for her new project. An artist of great artistic range, Barber delivers these songs idiomatically and fearlessly, without operatic artifice, her attention to textual nuance exemplary. Nor is she afraid to dip into chest voice, so essential in these songs. I particularly like her gritty and world-weary delivery of "Was bekam des Soldaten Weib?" It reminds me so much of Teresa Stratas' version in her *The Unknown Kurt Weill* album back in 1981 – even their timbres are similar. Also delicious is "Je cherche un millionnaire", and of course "La Vie en Rose", which ends the disc. The inimitable Peter Tiefenbach contributes not just his pianistic expertise but also the occasional vocals. Accordionist Mary-Lou Vetere shows off her virtuoso playing in several solo numbers. The recorded sound is clear and warm, with a welcome sense of immediacy. **JKS**

