



THE BLOG COVERS INTERESTING RELEASES, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREAS OF FREE AND MAINSTREAM JAZZ AS WELL AS CONTEMPORARY CLASSICAL AND AVANT GARDE MUSIC. THE EMPHASIS WILL FOR THE MOST PART BE ON SMALLER LABELS. BOTH ESTABLISHED MUSICIANS AND LESSER KNOWN ARTISTS THAT DESERVE ATTENTION WILL BE COVERED, WITH THE ACCENT ON WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW.

thursday, august 12, 2010

Jesus Rueda and his Third Symphony

I am always glad to get a chance to hear music that I might have missed had I not been doing this blog, especially when, like today, the

music really catches my ear. Jesus Rueda (b. 1961) is a not-yet-old Spanish exponent of modern music. His Third Symphony *Luz (Light)* (2004-7) forms the centerpiece of a magnetizing new release (Naxos 8.572417) with the Asturias Symphony Orchestra conducted by Maximiano Valdes.

Rueda's symphony is an orgy of sound in five movements. The movements are titled "Fire," "Water," "Earth," "Air," and "Towards the Light." Rueda gets a big, dramatic, very colorful sound from the orchestra, and it is clear he has mastered the capabilities and sound colors to be had. It's exciting music, so much so that my wife paused in her daily course of chores to ask me "who is that?" as she listened. My wife is usually a good test of my review fare, since she can get a bit blasé with the constant bombardment of sound coming out of my music system.

And I must say my reaction was the same. This is a truly original symphonic voice. The fine performance ensures that we do not mistake that for something more eclectic. It brings out all the nuances of detail in a work that has plenty of that. It makes me want to hear more of his work. Highly recommended.



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