

Claude Debussy: Études Élodie Vignon, piano Cypres Records CYP1678 [Total Time 63:18] cypres-records.com

French pianist Élodie Vignon's first recording focuses on

Debussy's twelve études, paired with twelve new poems (titled after each étude) by Belgian poet Lucien Noullez. These études, dedicated to Frédéric Chopin, reveal Debussy's personal and profound summation of a lifetime of keyboard revelations. They require not only virtuosic technical ability, but also deep musical insight. Vignon's performance is exceptional, sensible, and flawless; in her hands, each étude occupies a world of its own. And, even though the pieces are totally abstract, one can hear a variety of moods: flighty and capricious (Nos. 6 and 7), brilliant and triumphant (Nos. 5 and 12), fanciful and mysterious (Nos. 2, 3, and 4), light-hearted and brisk (Nos. 1 and 9), and glistening and translucent (Nos. 8, 10, and 11). Vignon's artistic performance reflects thoughtful interpretation and careful attention to the score throughout. Highly recommended.

- Wei Chen (Bruce) Lin