

Discovery of the Month

Joaquín Rodrigo

Complete Piano Works

Sara Marianovich (piano)

'For me, playing the piano is like praying in the mornings.' So wrote the great composer Joaquín Rodrigo – the dominant figure of Spanish music throughout the 20th century, which his life spanned almost exactly (1901-99), and famed for the much-loved *Concierto de Aranjuez*. His complete piano works, dating from 1923 to 1987, reveal that he was never a slave to musical fashion, but fused the Spanish dance idioms that he loved with elements of contemporary music (notably Stravinsky) when it suited him. The music – largely short pieces with strong Spanish inflections – is very personal. As Rodrigo himself said: 'I have tried to write simply and authentically what I felt and what the piano has allowed me to express.' The young pianist Sara Marianovich, who knew the composer well, has achieved quite a *tour de force* in this complete recording. Her playing is attentive and affectionate, always true to the intimacy and sincerity of his spirit.

Sony Classical SzK 89828 £££

Jessica Duchon

