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Scelsi: Collection Vol 3

Francesco Dillon (cello), Ensemble di Percussini di Naqqara, Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI/Tito Ceccherini
STR 33803 ****

The Stradivarius label's Scelsi survey here reaches the Italian composer's famous Four Pieces "each on one note" of 1959. The title means what it says, demonstrating a kind of minimalism far removed from more familiar varieties. Ceccherini's performance is somewhat low on tension, but elsewhere, as in Aion (1961), he gets the music to move like a lumbering, teetering beast, prodded by threatening arousals in the brass and subterranean percussive eruptions. And there are also withdrawals into tenuous strands of pitch fluctuations and microtonal conflicts that are likely to induce wooziness. The disc includes Hymnos (1963) and an early (1945), almost gothically expressionist Ballata for cello and orchestra. www.stradivarius.it