

American Record Guide

independent critics reviewing classical recordings

Flute Transcriptions

Debussy, Ravel, Schumann

Raquele Magalhaes; Marie-Josephe Jude, p

NoMad 75—68 minutes

The selections are Schumann's *3 Romances* and First Violin Sonata, Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*, Violin Sonata, and Ravel's posthumous Violin Sonata. Some of these transcriptions come from our flutist and pianist; others from Jean-Pierre Rampal and Gustave Samazeuilh.

Raquele Magalhaes plays with a sound that is rich and clear. She also creates phenomenally smooth lines. With Jude, the Ravel is hypnotic. The Schumann Sonata works on the recording, but I doubt the balance would succeed in concert because the flute projects differently from a violin. This problem affects nearly every such transcription. The oboe also projects differently from the flute, but the *Romances* work better and can be played with essentially no changes. These are interpreted superbly. The first might belong in a category of its own. Likewise, I'm delighted to hear the Debussy Sonata, but not convinced that it works on flute at all.

The pianism from Marie-Josephe Jude gives these pieces everything they need, whether clarity or mystery. I loved this flutist's 2016 debut album on Evidence (Jan/Feb 2017: 192) and feel no need to change my impression: to hear her is to fall in love with both the sound and musicianship.

GORMAN