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The Toronto Concert-Goer's Guide

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**Beethoven - Piano Sonata No.32 in C minor, Op.111; Six Bagatelles Op.126; An die ferne Geliebte, Op.98**

**Boris Zarankin; Giles Tomkins  
DOREMI DDR-71151**

Pianist Boris Zarankin is a regular performer on the Toronto music scene, including appearances with the TSO as guest soloist.

He is also well known to music lovers who frequent our smaller sized venues. These are the denizens of the Glenn Gould Studio and the St Lawrence Hall and even more intimate rooms where various committed entrepreneurial groups present salon-sized recitals and events.

Zarankin must be a most inspiring teacher because this recording is the direct result of his playing before a gathering in his home of the Ajax-Pickering Branch of the Ontario Registered Music Teacher's Association. So impressed were these professionals that they wanted to make a recording to share their enthusiasm. The Branch embarked on a fund-raising campaign the result of which is this recording made in Glenn Gould Studio last June.

Zarankin illuminates these complex piano works with outstanding assurance. His measured playing clarifies the serious side of Beethoven's late works while maintaining their essential melodic, singing lines. His realizations may, or may not, impress on the first hearing but once you tune in to what he is saying the rightness of his intentions clearly register. The first movement of the two movement sonata, Beethoven's last in this form, demonstrates this to perfection. The *Bagatelles* are spontaneously contrasted and delineated.

Baritone Giles Tomkins is on the threshold of a career. He possesses a promising and pleasant vocal instrument with clear potential for artistic growth and musical refinement. He is supported and presumably guided by his astute and sympathetic accompanist in what is credited as the first true song cycle, *An die ferne Geliebte*.

In sum a well balanced programme, beautifully executed and splendidly recorded.

**Bruce Surtees**