

ELLING: Piano Pieces
Rune Alver
LAWO 1185—73 minutes

Catharinus Elling (1858-1942) was a Norwegian composer championed by Edvard Grieg. He mostly collected Norwegian folk music and rearranged it to fit classical music styles.

These are his complete piano works. Championed by Alver's first-rate playing, the music is pleasant and easy to listen to. The simple melodies in 2 Piano Pieces reminds me of Grieg's 'Lyric Pieces' but are more substantial. The color changes in the middle section are quite magical. The Songs without Words are other high points, recollecting Mendelssohn's. The phrasing is quite beautiful.

KANG, American Record Guide

