

FAURÉ: MIRAGES; LA BONNE CHANSON EA, SMITH

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Fauré : *Poèmes d'un jour* op. 21 No. 1-3; *Mirages* on. 113 No. 1-4; *La bonne chanson* on. 61 No. 1-9; *L'horizon chimérique* op. 118 No. 1-4. Bettina Smith (ms) and Jan Willem Nelleke (p). Lawo LWC 1146 (48'34 "). 2016

Handy to have the finest four song cycles of Fauré together, surprisingly only that the recordings come from Norway. Fortunately, mezzo Bettina Smith has a good French pronunciation. Only some s lack the z sound, the soft g can become a sh and sometimes oh, but with such a set of good interpretations one falls as a Dutchman with often not even the best pronunciation of the French language.

As a Northerner, Smith keeps the emotions under control, but gives ample room for feelings of regret, humor and passion.

In comparison, other expenses are often a bit better. In the well-known La vouchers, baritone Gérard Souzay and Dalton Baldwin (Denon CO 2252, Philips 420.775-2), mezzo Anne Sophie von Otter (DG 447.752-2) and soprano Carolyn Sampson (BIS SACD 2233).

It is mainly the composition of the program that Lawo must have.

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