

UKHA Magazine Autumn 2017 – Dusk to Dawn

Gwenllian Llyr has released a solo collection that also combines well-loved standards with highly personal and unusual programming touches. Beginning with Renie's Ballade Fantastique (the tell-tale heart), Llyr's technique is sure, powerful and well-up to the challenges of this notorious gothic fantasy. Changes in register and colour are defined and the ghoulish subject matter clearly lives in the artist's imagination as she plays. Salzedo's less-often played Ballade is similarly magnificent. However, it is in the more intimate numbers that Llyr really comes into her own: an arrangement of Bartok's Evening in the Country creates an exceptionally still moment, with a liquid legato that is very rare. Her renderings of Glinka's The Lark and Debussy's Reverie also have that compelling mellowness. Llyr also includes the enchanting, evocative Flying with the Birds Dream by Sue Rothstein, and a charming composition of her own, Strawberry Moon. A complete programme, thoughtfully put together, beautifully played and stylishly presented.