VIOLINIST.COM
February 8, 2019

For the Record, Op. 77:
Matthew Lipman; Leila Josefowicz; Melia Watras

By Laurie Niles

Welcome to "For the Record," Violinist.com's weekly roundup of new releases of recordings by violinists, violists, cellists and other classical musicians. We hope it helps you keep track of your favorite artists, as well as find some new ones to add to your listening!

Ascent
Matthew Lipman, viola
Henry Kramer, piano

Violist Matthew Lipman dedicates this album of viola fantasies to the memory of his mother. Recipient of a 2015 Avery Fisher Career Grant, Lipman commissioned Clarice Assad to write *Metamorfose*, a commentary on grief and acceptance, which receives its premiere recording on this album. He also includes Dmitri Shostakovich's long-lost *Impromptu* for Viola and Piano, Op. 33, recently unearthed in the Moscow State Archives. Other pieces include Robert Schumann's *Fairy Tale Pictures*, York Bowen's *Phantasy*, Garth Knox's *Fuga libre* and Franz Waxman's popular violin showpiece, *Carmen Fantasie*. Joining Lipman is pianist Henry Kramer, winner of the Second Prize at the 2016 Queen Elisabeth competition and top prizes at the 2015 Honens International Piano Competition and 2011 Montreal International Music Competition.

Zimmermann: Violin Concerto
Leila Josefowicz, violin
Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Hannu Lintu conducting

This album features works by Bernd Alois Zimmermann, including his Violin Concerto, which is a relatively early work that premiered in 1950 and was largely neglected thereafter. Other works include *Photoptosis* (1968) and *Incidence of Light*. Two of their recordings were nominated for Gramophone Awards in 2018.

Schumann Resonances
Melia Watras, viola

Seattle-based violist and composer, Melia Watras, has used Schumann's *Märchenbilder* (Pictures from Fairyland), for viola, Op. 113 as the inspiration for five world premiere compositions. In addition to three new works by Watras, the album includes new works by Cuong Vu and Richard Karpen. Featured performers include Watras, trumpeter Cuong Vu, pianist Winston Choi, vocalist Galia Arad, violinist Michael Jinsoo Lim, and percussionist Matthew Kocmieroski. "For my album Schumann Resonances, I wanted to use *Märchenbilder* (Pictures from Fairyland) as a building block, traveling in new directions with world premiere recordings of compositions by me and two of the most creative people I know, Cuong Vu and Richard Karpen," Watras said. "The only guideline for the new pieces was that the point of departure be this composition of Schumann: through *Märchenbilder* itself, or inspired by fairy tales or other folklore (including folk songs)."