

# ILYA KALER

## **Brahms, J. / Schumann, R.: Violin Concertos – Album Review**

Ilya Kaler's new recording of the Brahms concerto on Naxos is eminently recommendable. When reviewing his recent recording of the Tchaikovsky violin concerto I remarked that Kaler's performance was one "of elegance as well as brilliance" that "wears its war-horse status lightly, impressing itself upon the listener by virtue of its freshness and natural feeling". Those comments are equally applicable to this recording. Kaler's conception of Brahms' score is one that rejoices in its beauties. Aply supported by the warm sounds exhaled by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Kaler's violin sings with a golden tone and sweetly inflected phrasing. He takes his time over the first movement, but maintains his rhythmic control and sense of the music's overall architecture. The coupling of Brahms and Schumann is astute. Firstly it makes programmatic sense.

Tim Perry | MusicWeb International | November 2008