



THE SUNDAY TIMES

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On record

— The week's essential new releases

Classical

ALBAN BERG ET AL ★★★
Music of Tribute
Ieva Jokubaviciute (piano)
Labor Records LAE7036



This is the Lithuanian pianist's debut disc and very interestingly devised. Berg is the focus, and music he inspired. His Piano Sonata, Op 1, rendered with the paradoxically restrained opulence required, and Four Songs, Op 2, given with the powerful soprano Marjorie Dix, are, as the booklet points out, a tribute to his teacher Schoenberg. Of the Berg tributes by Scelsi, Franghiz Ali-Zadeh, Jacob Gilboa and Berg's pupils Ross Lee Finney and Hans Erich Apostel, the last two stand out. Finney's Variations on a Theme by Alban Berg departs from the opening of the Violin Concerto; Apostel offers a crisp, thrilling transcription for four hands (with Vladimir Valjarevic) of the brief Variations from the Lulu Suite. **PD**