



# Tonaufnahme - Recording Eberhard Sengpiel

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Trio-Fontenay

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Sengpiel  
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Musik 1A

## Johannes Brahms: Klavier-Trios 1 - 3.

Teldec-Studio, Berlin

*Hi Fi News  
& Record Review*

### **BRAHMS:** **Piano Trios** *Trio Fontenay*

**Teldec 9031-76036-2**

(2CDs, 123m 32s) part ® •

Much honesty here in the outline of the Trio Fontenay (formed 1980) where the booklet admits the influence of the Amadeus Quartet and the Beaux Arts Trio, even going so far as to suggest that its character derives from the personality of Beaux Arts pianist Menahem Pressler. In fact, the young German Trio sounds entirely individual, and a notable feature is the sharp definition of instrumental colour-changes with subtle accents which are never allowed to over-impose. Throughout, the three instrumental voices are very distinct, and this is aided by a record-

ing which is very wide in lateral separation: the string definition is far clearer than on any Beaux Arts recording.

The numbering of the trios is confusing: Nos.1 & 4 are from the mid-1850s, No.2 is from 1882 and No.3 from 1887. The Fourth is so numbered because of its posthumous discovery, but No.1 of 1854 was so thoroughly revised in 1889 that it gives the impression of being the most mature of all. Its finale is a *tour-de-force* in this performance, its dark opening superbly menacing, and it moves towards the comforting second subject with great sureness.

This sense of purposeful musical direction typifies all the interpretations. There are no extremes of tempo but there is plenty of dynamic contrast and great attention to internal balance. Interpretationally the reading of No.4 reflects most credit on this group, since this less mature work is a little more diffuse yet the players still achieve tautness.

Excellent sound, exceptionally realistic balance – a very polished production.

[A\*/A:1\*/1]

*Antony Hodgson*

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### Übersetzung auf Deutsch:

Ein bemerkenswertes Kennzeichen ist die genaue Abbildung der instrumentalen Klangfarbenwechsel mit feinen Betonungen, die niemals zu aufdringlich werden.