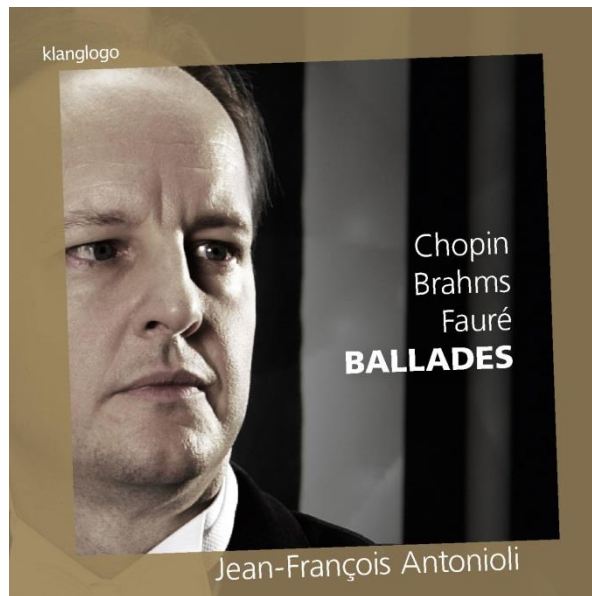


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**Alan Becker**



**KL1408**  
**Chopin, Brahms & Fauré: Ballades**

Born in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1959, Antonioli studied at the conservatories in Lausanne and Paris and with Bruno Seidhofer in Vienna and Carlo Zecchi in Rome. While he has about 20 recordings to his credit, he is a conductor in many of them.

Brahms and Chopin's ballades are well represented in the catalog. I was not expecting these to be fully competitive with the best, but careful listening proved me wrong. Antonioli has both the technique and the temperament to not only surmount their difficulties, but also to bring to this music a natural flow that avoids having to make adjustments in order to cope with control difficulties. This, especially with the Chopin, is often the case with artists of less than sterling ability.

Antonioli's playing will have the greatest appeal to people who value the romantic tradition and are not turned off by heart-onsleeve emotion. Especially appealing is the warmth of sound from Victoria Hall in Geneva, Switzerland.

Fauré's ever lovely ballade is difficult to resist when presented with such beauty and grace as we have here.

Again the notes consist of an interview with the artist. These are no better or worse than many others, but the practice has become annoying.