

**Avner DORMAN: Piano Sonatas Nos. 1, 2 & 3, Moments Musicaux,  
Azerbaijani Dance**

*Eliran Avni, piano*

**8.579001**

**Review by Thomas Abbott**

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Avner Dorman's (b. 1975) music has received a great deal of recent publicity, and I have been very impressed with his orchestral works that I have encountered. Even so, I was still not prepared for the excitement of this new disc of his complete (to-date) piano music. The work begins with his first sonata of 1998 (subtitled "Classical"), a work which draws on everything from Mozart to Bernstein to Elvis. The disc concludes with his third piano sonata of 2005, in which the Middle Eastern influences that are evident in his recent work have taken firmly hold. It presents a journey through his compositional life in those ensuing years, always revealing a fecund musical imagination and superb craft. Every work is written with supreme craft and performed vibrantly and thrillingly by pianist Eliran Avni. It's hard to find a new disc of contemporary piano music that is really exciting or freshly invigorating, but this disc of Dorman's most certainly is. Now, can Naxos please give us some of his superb orchestral music?