

## Recent Naxos Offerings

Review by Jens F. Laurson, Logan Circle,

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First to Avner Dorman's solo piano works performed by Eliran Avni. *À la bonheur!* This is good music – of the kind that, if it were by a prominent, preferably dead, composer, would be called “eminently pleasing” and “utterly delightful.” Since it is a new face, however, that shows his “Classical” *Sonata No. 1*, *Moments Musicaux* (some competition he's got with other works that go by that title), *Prelude No. 1* (written as an 18-year-old), *Sonata No. 2* and the 2005 *Dance Suite: Sonata No. 3*, one is tempted to be more reserved and say things like “charming, if harmless” or “quaint and unchallenging listening.” Probably a bit of both is true, but more importantly there are some ‘damn good’ moments, too – and that these works make for very enjoyable listening. Repeat listening is even more rewarding: the playful way that the “classical” first sonata mimics anything from Beethoven to Liszt (“Romantic” would have been just as good a nickname) to popular music and has all the youthful quirks of unburdened composing. Dorman has an ear for a good tune but avoids cheapness. Come to think of it, this is “damn good.”