



Pressespiegel

## Kim Kashkashian, CD-Recording



Kim Kashkashian: almost unbearable heights of expressiveness

theStrad  
RECOMMENDS... ★

**KURTÁG** Signs, Games and Messages **LIGETI** Viola Sonata  
**Kim Kashkashian (viola)**

ECM 476 4729

**Challenging but rewarding solo viola repertoire from a master player**



I don't know whether the term 'easy listening' is still fashionable, but the music on this CD could fairly be described as its complete opposite. Any effort required will be amply repaid, though, since this is some of the most intense music written in the past few decades. *Signs, Games and Messages* is a continuing

series of isolated movements by that post-Webernian miniaturist, György Kurtág. The earliest pieces date from 1961 – none of them surpasses the five-minute mark, and most are roughly around a minute in length. Kim Kashkashian has lived with this music for years (indeed, the notoriously fastidious composer has revised several movements with her in mind). She has internalised Kurtág's concentrated scores – which can include more words of instruction than notes – so that in her hands they sound as natural as a nursery rhyme.

The movements of Ligeti's Sonata were also composed piecemeal, between 1991 and 1994, but together they form a monumental

**Kim Kashkashian has internalised Kurtág's concentrated scores**

CARLOS SOLARE

six-movement counterpart to Bach's unaccompanied string masterpieces. Transcending the printed page, as in the Kurtág, Kashkashian is completely at home in the Sonata's idiom, or rather idioms, be it the gypsy-like C-string meditations of the 'Hora Lungă', the swinging 'Loop' or the obsessive 'Chaconne chromatique'.

ECM's lifelike recording faithfully captures Kashkashian's tone, which can reach almost unbearable heights of expressiveness.

CARLOS MARÍA SOLARE