

Hewitt's moving music

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Re: Hewitt finds hidden depths in didactic score, Aug. 16.

Reviewer Richard Todd paid warm homage to Bach and Angela Hewitt following her mesmerizing performance at Dominion Chalmers on Thursday evening. But for me, and I suspect many others, the magic came near the end of the evening. Bach did not complete The Art of the Fugue, as his failing health brought composing to a halt midway through Contrapunctus XIV. As Hewitt explained in her preperformance talk, many have written

"completions" for the work. She chose to end where Bach had been forced to. The complicated waterfall of music poured out at a terrific pace and then simply stopped, suspended in mid-air. The effect was so moving I could see Bach's hand pause over his music and then lay down his pen, forever. A long silence ensued, followed by the last piece, a choral prelude which legend says was dictated by Bach on his death bed. The applause thundered, but I could barely hold back the tears.

Claire E. Marshall, Ottawa

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