

"One of Ax's great strengths as a performer, in fact, is his ability to blend tenderness and muscle in a single amalgam, and the first movement of the Fantasy - marked by rippling left-hand accompaniment and a questing but always clear sense of purpose — showed off that gift."

San Francisco Chronicle

"The second movement was especially beautiful, with wide dynamic contrasts and searching drama in the center." THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

"Mr. Ax played this haunting music with uncanny dramatic timing and melting sound. During the opening section, as the sound lingered after each statement of the chord motif, a lacy hint of a melodic line trailed slowly up the keyboard with eerie calm."

The New York Times

"His playing was full of bravura, sensitive phrasing and touch, and a wonderful array of trills."

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE

"His greatness, his overwhelming authority as musician, technician and probing intellect emerges quickly as he plays. Within minutes, we are totally captured by his intensity and pianistic achievement."

Los Angeles Times

"Ax is an extremely satisfying pianist; he is at home in a wide variety of music and his pianism is always thoughtful, lyrical, lustrous."

THE WASHINGTON POST

"The soloist was Emanuel Ax - strong on bravura, ravishing in finesse and flinging himself into the work with glee. There was a liquid purity in the slow unfurling phrases of the slow movement, a real optimistic bounce in the finale."

THE GUARDIAN

