

## ***From Carlo Grante***

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I was very moved by Antonio Iturrioz's documentary, "Leopold Godowsky: the Buddha of the Piano".

Nostalgia is the most immediate feeling that this most valuable monograph on Godowsky triggered in me. This production makes one feel nostalgia for Godowsky's era, the "golden age" of the piano, as Godowsky was nostalgic of the golden age of high-Romanticism" and even back, of Bach's age of "high-Baroque". And one feels nostalgia about a person and artist of utmost integrity as Godowsky was.

In fact, Godowsky's scores are full of coherent markings and details, demanding from the performer utmost clarity and focus on the most minute details, just as in the music of Chopin and Bach, his constant reference-composers. Godowsky's ideal sound-world, that "combines Chopin's sonority with Bach's polyphony", is also his manifesto of a compositional nostalgia, with the ambition of looking back to past masters in order to push piano-writing and piano-playing forward into the future. Iturrioz's performances in this documentary show clearly that he is a well-prepared and highly competent advocate of these qualities of Godowsky's music and is not afraid of giving the right perception of Godowsky's immense piano output, as music not meant for low-class sensationalism, but rather as stimulating, mind-teasing and mesmerizing sonic architectures of a unique kind.

As a musician and person of devotion to the cause of Godowsky's music, I think Iturrioz is the man we have been waiting for and we can certainly expect from him a solid and lasting advocacy of the creative efforts of this composer.

**Carlo Grante**