



OF BEING

Ning Yu, *Piano*

New Focus Recordings

FCR242

[Total Time 48:50]

newfocusrecordings.com

Ning Yu's debut CD features first recordings of works that will strike a chord with pianists looking for fresh yet effective music. The album opens with Wang Lu's beautiful *Rates of Extinction* (2016), which compellingly draws one in a sound world depicting the heart rates of different animals recently lost due to the negative effects of our modern world, yet also provides a counterbalance through the celebration of "an imagined eternal freedom through the blossoming of pianistic virtuosity." Pulsation and virtuosity also play important roles in Misato Mochizuki's dynamic *Moebius-Ring* (2003), and Yu delivers with excitement and drive. Of larger proportion is the thought-provoking *Of Being* (2019) by Emily Praetorius. With Virginia Wolfe's "moments of being" as inspiration, extended techniques are placed within a sparse texture to call the listener to the present moment. Yu is a masterful performer who commands attention through this well-conceived and executed recital. —*Elizabeth Moak*