

**WER 67622 Antheil the Futurist. Klaviermusik von George Antheil**

## Norman Lebrecht Album of the Week 16 Dec



Antheil, the self-proclaimed 'Bad Boy of Music', fails to charm Norman Lebrecht with his piano music although the performers do their level best to sell it.

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The original American in Paris, George Antheil titled his best-selling memoirs *Bad Boy of Music* and tried hard to live up to his billing. Raised a Lutheran in Trenton, New Jersey, he went wild among artists and ladies, filling his apartment with new acquisitions – a Braque, a Picasso, a Leger, two Kubins, the paint still wet. Shuttling between 1920s Paris and Berlin he finally headed to Hollywood, last refuge of the wannabe celebrity.

In music as in books, his best writing is often the title – *Airplane Sonata*, *Swell Music*, *Death of Machines*. The promise soon wears thin. Aiming to break sound barriers, he lands somewhere between honky-tonk and his all-time idol, [Igor Stravinsky](#).

The solo piano music is entertaining enough in noisy spells. Guy Livingston, intermittently joined by two other pianists, hurls himself at the keyboard and spares no effort to make a case for an Antheil revival. No fault of his that the music is no more than a dinner plate shattered into period pieces.

**Artists: Guy Livingston, Philippe Keler & Stephane Leach (pianos)**